



MAN IN COURT OVER MURDER

Report by David Cosgrove

A MAN has appeared in court charged with the murder of a neighbour in Stourbridge.

Police named the victim as Paul Tompkins, who was found stabbed to death at his flat in Wollaston on New Year's Day

Jobless Daniel Jones, aged 33, is accused of killing 59-year-old Mr Tompkins in Forge Road, Wollaston.

Jones, of Forge Road, spoke only to confirm his name at Dudley Magistrates Court on Monday.

A post-mortem has revealed that Mr Tompkins died from stab wounds.

A forensic tent remained up at the property on Monday and a police presence was still in place.

Scores of tributes have been paid online to Mr Tompkins, who friends knew as 'Tonka'.

Dom Farrington posted: "God bless him. Such a gentle soul." While James Sibley Deakin wrote: "Sad world we live in."

Daz Whitehouse wrote: "When I first left home and went to live in a bedsit in Stourbridge, he lived with his mom and dad next door. He always used to come round listen to music, tell us stories. Summer of 93 has great memories for me."

Concerned

Police were called to a flat in Forge Road just after 7pm on January 1 by a concerned neighbour.

Officers forced the door open but nothing could be done to save 59-year-old Mr Tompkins who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Jones was remanded in custody for a preliminary hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Over the weekend residents spoke of their concern about the incident happening in their neighbourhood.

One woman, who lived nearby and did not want to be named, said it was a 'huge shock'. Detectives continue to appeal for information to help them determine the circumstances surrounding Mr Tompkins' death.

Detective Inspector Martin Slevin, from Force CID, urged people to help officers discover the circumstances of the attack in the quiet cul-de-sac.

"We are still in the early stages of piecing together exactly what happened and would ask anyone with information to come forward and contact us," he said.

Anyone who can help the investigation is asked to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

TEARS AFTER STORM LASHES SCOUT HUT BASE



Scout leader Neil Heath and cub scout leader Claire Baker look at the storm damage to the ceiling causing a leak at the scout hut

THOUSANDS of pounds of damage has been caused to a scout hut in Dudley battered by Storm Frank.

Felt panels were ripped from the roof exposing the HQ to heavy rain which flooded a meeting room. Volunteers from 1st Bromley-Pensnett Scout group were mopping up rain water for two days.

The hut was closed during the Christmas break and volunteers arrived ready for the new year to be confronted by extensive storm damage. Water has seeped through the plywood ceiling damaging walls.

Scout group leader Neil Heath, aged 46, said: "We are absolutely gutted, especially for the kids."

The father-of-two, who runs the group with his wife Angel, said that some of the youngsters had burst into tears when they saw the damage.

The group is appealing to local traders to help them protect the hut from the elements as weather forecasters warn of more bad weather on the way.

Call 07518 842873 or visit Facebook for Save 1st Bromley Pensnett Scout Group.



The 50-year-old scout hut used by the 1st Bromley-Pensnett Scout group is under threat

CHARGES

Burial fees rise to meet cash savings

BURIAL fees in Dudley will rise as part of a raft of increased charges by the cash-strapped council.

The increase will be brought in as Dudley Council continues its battle to meet savings of £20 million over the next three years.

Among the fees to rise are the cost of exclusive right of burial on a plot which will rise from £1,935 to £2,090. Cremation costs will rise from £344 to £372.

New fee charges will also come into force for a range of leisure centre and museum services. Dudley Council officials say increases are in line with inflation.

THEATRE

New group stages Hippodrome bid

A GROUP aiming to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition has submitted a last-minute rescue bid.

Gordon Downing, of Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, has joined a group led by businessman Dave Mundon.

Campaigners have formed a steering group after Dudley Council gave them until the end of last year to put a realistic package together to revive the former theatre. Dudley Council wants to knock down the Castle Hill landmark.

● 'Inept' — see page 9

DEVELOPMENT

Shop to be built on site of eyesore pub

A LARGE shop will be built on the site of a Dudley pub after the project was backed by planners.

The Hill Tavern, Kates Hill, which closed in 2011, had been repeatedly targeted by arsonists and was branded an eyesore after it was wrecked by a blaze.

It was demolished recently to make way for potential redevelopment of the land in Watson's Green Road after plans had been approved to build a convenience store and two flats.

The plans were altered to increase the size of the planned shop.

INSIDE

BIG TURNOUT FOR THE HUNT



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Queen honours community champions



Councillor Brian Edwards

TWO community champions from our area share the same sense of pride after being named in the New Year's Honours List.

One of the local award winners is a Cradley Heath-born expert in learning disabilities, who has been handed his second helping of New Year's Honours joy – adding a CBE to the OBE he received 15 years ago.

Professor Barry Carpenter, who lives in Chaddesley Corbett and has an adult daughter with Down's syndrome, was awarded the honour for services to special educational needs. He holds honorary chairs at the Universities of Worcestershire, Limerick, Hamburg, and Flinders in Australia.

Professor Carpenter, who studied at Rowley Regis Grammar School, said: "It's a great honour to receive this recognition. I'm over the moon – they say lightning doesn't strike twice but it has."

South Staffs Council leader Brian Edwards has been appointed an MBE.

Councillor Edwards, of Stourton, was first elected to the authority in 1983, and has been leader for 11 years. He has been the county councillor for South Staffordshire's Kinver division for 25 years.

Councillor Edwards, 75, said: "I'm very proud and look forward to serving the area for another few years."



Professor Barry Carpenter

Police force closure of pub plagued by violence

A PUB in Dudley, which has been plagued by violence and 'gang activity', has been shut down by police.

Senior officers moved to close the Earl of Dudley Arms in Wellington Road to put a stop to criminal behaviour which they say is linked to the premises.

Police have been called to the pub more than 60 times over the last two years and said it had become a hotbed for serious crime involving gangs.

Attempted murder, wounding and robbery were all listed among crimes that had all taken place on the premises.

A man was badly beaten during an attack during December, which proved to be the final straw for the authorities.

Police said the owners had failed to protect customers by 'allowing members local gangs to frequent the premises'.

A 23-year-old man was left fighting for his life in May 2014 after being stabbed as violence flared outside the Earl of Dudley Arms.

Christopher Perkins underwent emergency surgery and spent five days in hospital after being knifed outside the pub. He suffered a collapsed lung and a cut to his other lung.

Failed

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Hanson, from West Midlands Police Force CID, said: "The licence holder of Earl of Dudley has a duty to protect his customers but he has failed to do that."

"He has allowed members of a local gang to frequent his premises and commit some serious acts of violence towards innocent customers."

"In the latest incident a man was badly beaten inside the premises. Two men have been charged in connection with that attack and await trial."

The pub will stay closed until the end of March after a closure notice was granted at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court.

DCI Hanson said: "We understand that the closure of this pub will mean people losing their jobs and that the licensee will be significantly financially affected. However, the magistrates were convinced that the immediate closure was the only way to keep people from being harmed."

Nurse retires after 45 years in NHS



Cynthia Davis, left, with colleague Maggie Williams as she retires after 45 years of service to the NHS

"IT has been an incredible journey." Those were the words of dedicated nurse, Cynthia Davis, as she said farewell to her patients and colleagues after notching up 45 years of service for the NHS.

Ms Davis retired on new year's eve from Stourbridge Health and Care Centre, where she had worked for ten years. She began at Kidderminster General Hospital in 1970 as a staff nurse before moving to Dudley's Burton Road Hospital in 1981 for coronary care training.

She was on the first night shift at Russells Hall Hospital when it was opened to patients for the first time in 1984.

Ms Davis, 61, from Bewdley, said her last day had been very emotional.

"I just intended to slip away quietly but everyone organised a celebration," she said. "I have met some extremely interesting people throughout my career and learnt so much. I've built so many close friendships over the years with my

colleagues and patients and I'm thrilled to be able to say that I have made a difference to the lives of so many patients."

She intends to spend more time focusing on her work at heart charity HUGS in Dudley.

Paula Clark, chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Cynthia has committed her working life to the trust and I would like to thank her for her dedication and wish her all the best with her retirement."

Council get funding to help people find a home

MORE than 60 new homes will be built across Dudley and Stourbridge as part of a scheme to provide starter homes for those struggling to buy or rent in the borough.

Four sites for new housing estates have been revealed after the council received a grant of £625,000 towards funding the development.

The cash for the 62 starter homes has been given after an agreement was reached with the Government's Homes and Communities Agency.

Dudley Council is one of three authorities in the Black Country to secure cash towards new homes.

Bosses plan to build homes in Beechwood Road, Kates Hill; King William Street, Amblecote; Mere Road, Stourbridge; and Wrens Nest Road, Dudley.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, is expected to sign off the scheme.

Discount

The homes will be for sale and offered at a 20 per cent discount to first time buyers under the age of 40.

A report to Councillor Lowe said: "A key theme of Dudley's Council plan is to build more homes. The delivery of 62 starter homes will contribute to this."

"The proposal also supports one of the council's strategic housing aims — to provide a mixed housing offer that will meet a range of housing needs and helps to address one of our key challenges, that many new households cannot afford to buy or rent a home of their own."

Bring cards to be recycled in store

TWO Sainsbury's stores in Dudley borough are offering a service to help people recycle their Christmas cards.

The shops in Amblecote and Merry Hill are providing the service to support the Forest Stewardship Council help protect forests. Until January 13, customers can recycle their Christmas cards at an in-store collection point. For the second year all 'paper' wrapping can be placed in the Christmas card recycling collection boxes too. The initiative has been extended to include Christmas lights, ribbons and plastic wrappings, and customers can bring these to any Sainsbury's supermarket for recycling.

Amblecote store manager Andy Beardmore said: "We've always had a brilliant response from customers in previous years."

Vintage books and comics at meeting

MEMBERS of Sedgley Local History Society are being invited to take along historic books, magazines and comics to its first meeting of the new year.

The event is being held on Thursday, January 14, at St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street.

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Fast electric chargers are installed in the borough

ELECTRIC vehicle chargers have been installed on three Dudley borough car parks.

The council hopes to encourage the take up of ultra-low emission vehicles by installing chargers in handy positions across the borough.

The new superfast charging points are part of a network of more than 300 rapid chargers available across the country.

The Dudley chargers are located on car parks on Andrew Road, Halesowen; Level Street, Brierley Hill; and Stafford Street, Dudley.

The charging points enable drivers to top up and be back on the road within 10 to 20 minutes of calling in. They cost £2.50 for 10 minutes and 25p per minute thereafter.

Grant

The charging points have been mostly funded by a Government grant of £112,500, a contribution of £37,500 from Charge Your Car and a £14,000 allocation from the Department for Transport's Integrated Transport Block.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "As a council we take sustainability issues very seriously and we are confident that by offering electric car points we will encourage more people to drive electric vehicles."

Learn more about the UK's network of 'EV' charge points at the Charge Your Car website at chargeyourcar.org.uk or download the app.

Legal solution for court barrier row

PLANS for a parking barrier to be put in place at the rear of Dudley Magistrates were withdrawn from a planning committee meeting.

The move aims to allow the Department of Justice and Central Methodist Church to reach a legal agreement to allow access for users of the church via the court's rear access road and parking area.

Coffins would have to be carried underneath a parking barrier for funerals if plans for restrictions in Gads Lane were to go ahead as originally proposed. More than 100 parishioners signed a petition against it. Now it is hoped that the signing of the agreement will answer the objections and the application could then be determined under delegated powers.

Expert to give hellebores tips

A GARDENING expert will deliver a lecture on January 26. John Massey, owner of Ashwood Nurseries, near Kingswinford, will present The World of Hellebores at the nursery at 11am. Call (01384) 401996.

Motorbikers help children's hospital



Bikers who joined the hospital convoy

AROUND 200 bikers helped deliver hundreds of gifts and supplies to support seriously ill children and their families have now handed over almost £750 to charity.

Streetbike in Halesowen collected toys and presents for youngsters at Birmingham Children's Hospital throughout December.

Supplies including tea, coffee and even power tools to support the self-funded children and family accommodation unit at the hospital, Ronald McDonald House.

A cheque for £744 was presented to

the hospital following the arrival of a convoy including a mini bus and two vans filled with gifts.

Gary Marshall, owner of Streetbike, said: "Streetbike is used as a drop-off point throughout December and anyone can bring presents for the children."

Donations

"We also collect items to keep the home running, even power tools."

A convoy of more than 200 bikers left Streetbike on Dudley Road for the heart of Birmingham to officially

hand over the donations. The event has been running for five years and the bikers have also supported Russells Hall Hospital.

Mr Marshall added: "We transported the donations in two vans. One had all the gifts for the children's hospital and the other supplies for Ronald McDonald House."

"There must've been up to a thousand items handed over and it's all thanks to John Stone, who was the first person to instigate the idea four years ago."

Most trains arrive late at town's rail station

MORE than 7,000 trains arrived late at Sandwell and Dudley railway station over a three-month period, it has been revealed.

Between June 28 to September 19 this year 11,985 trains were planned to arrive at Sandwell and Dudley station on Bromford Lane station but 7,545 of those arrived one minute or more late – equivalent to 63 per cent. Of those, 148 were cancelled all together.

The most delayed service at the station was the Virgin Trains Edinburgh to London Euston service on the June 11 – delayed for 151 minutes – after a man was killed after being struck on the track near Lockerbie in Scotland.

Earlier this year Network Rail said that the number of trains that arrive on time had risen dramatically since they took over the running of Britain's railways in October 2002.

Network Rail spokesman, Jon Crampton, said that they are constantly working alongside operators to improve punctuality.

"Overall 83.6 per cent of trains arrive at Sandwell and Dudley on time, using the industry and European-wide recognised Public Performance Measure – PPM" he said.

Reliability

"Network Rail is not complacent and constantly works with train operators to improve punctuality and reliability to provide passengers with the best possible level of service." PPM measures the performance of individual passenger trains against their timetable as agreed between the operator and Network Rail at 10pm the night before.

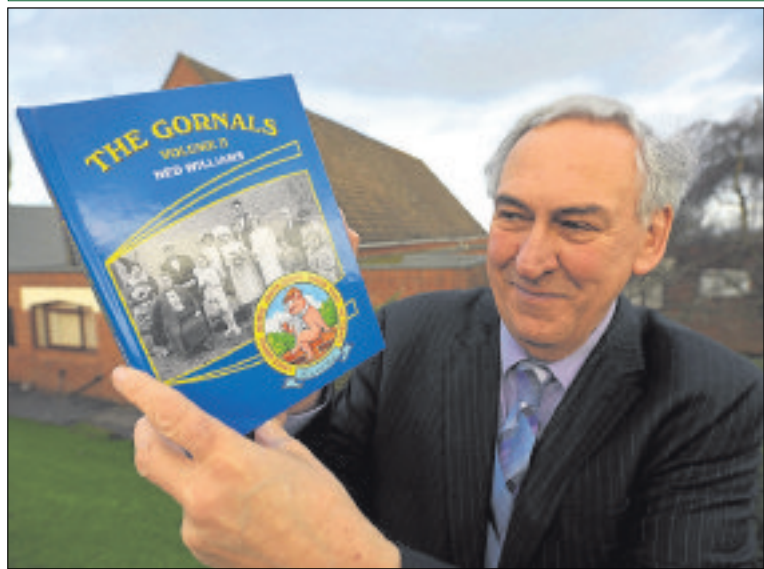
Richard Stanton, Communications Manager at Virgin Trains, said: "The majority of delays to Virgin Trains' services on the West Coast Mainline are caused by issues that are the responsibility of Network Rail and are out of our control. Over the past year we were only responsible for 15 per cent of the delays to our services which is one of the best results in the industry."

Sandwell and Dudley station is on the Birmingham loop of the West Coast Main Line.

It was originally opened as 'Oldbury' in 1852 and was one of two stations in the town.

In January 2010 Samaritans and Network Rail formed a partnership to reduce the number of railway suicides and to improve support available to those affected by them.

Historian explores a special village



Historian Ned Williams with his latest book The Gornals: Volume Two, which he launched in Upper Gornal

A HISTORIAN is putting Gornal back in the spotlight with his latest book.

As well as sifting through the history books and archives, Ned Williams also knocked on doors in the village and spoke to inhabitants to find out about them and their families.

The book is a sequel to another he previously wrote about Gornal so he was keen to do things a little differently this time around.

Mr Williams said: "I wanted to fill in the gaps that has been left by other people. I found they weren't averse to a foreigner coming in and asking a lot of questions."

The historian, who is originally from east London but now lives in Wolverhampton and has written more than 50 books, believes Gornal is one of few places remaining in the Black Country which has the feel of a real village.

He said: "In Gornal, people

have really strong roots, their families might have lived there for five generations, there is much more of a village feel. In other areas that has sort of vanished."

The Gornals: Volume Two is on sale now at Best Wishes in Gornal Wood and Bywaters on Upper Gornal and at Waterstones. Mr Williams is considering putting together a third book on Gornal, anyone who can help can call him on 01902 334564.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Housing estate meetings planned

A SERIES of meetings are taking place in Dudley this month as a forum for housing estate residents and tenants in various areas.

Tenants and Residents Association meetings (TRAs) are being held for people living in Wrens Nest and Ellowes Hall estates.

The first is the New Wrens Nest TRA at the Wrens Nest Community Centre on January 18 from 6pm. The second is the Ellowes Hall TRA at the Royal British Legion on January 21 from 7pm. Call 01384 815168 to ensure meeting is going ahead.

More patrols due to jobs at shops

POLICE have launched a crackdown on anti-social behaviour around a shopping precinct in Upper Gornal.

West Midlands Police said patrols have been stepped up around Kent Street after an increase in reports of bad behaviour and crime.

The force is working to challenge the main offenders and stamp out any more crime in the area, say police.

Vehicle crime across the neighbourhood is also a priority for local officers with vans being targeted by thieves looking to steal power tools.

Singers donate £11k to hospice

CHORAL singers have raised £11,000 to help Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

Got 2 Sing, led by Beth Dunn, helped to raise the roof at Merry Hill shopping centre to generate £519 towards the total.

The rest of the money has been raised through fundraising events held throughout the year.

he choir has more than 60 members from Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Bewdley and Worcester.

Twelve new homes near to nature reserve

HOMES could be built near the Wrens Nest Nature Reserve in Dudley.

Plans have been lodged by RA Investments to build a total of 12 homes on a former council maintenance site on Meadow Road, which runs along the south side of the famous beauty spot.

Dudley Council planners are expected to make a decision on the application when it comes before a committee in the coming weeks.

TV comic has pub gig

COMEDIAN Gary Delaney from TV's Mock the Week, will be in Stourbridge tomorrow (Friday).

Delaney, who is married to fellow comic Sarah Millican, will be performing at Kate Fitzgeralds, in Envile Street, Wollaston, at 8pm. Tickets cost £10. For details call (01384) 374410.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



HERE it is. Another bright, shiny and to-tally unspoiled New Year. So who's going to muck it up, then? Prediction – having pledged untold millions for flood defences, David Cameron landed with the worst drought since 1976.

HOW many of the media organisations condemning Oliver Letwin for his views on black people in the 1985 riots have taken a long, hard look into their own archives? Letwin's assumptions and language may seem shocking today but they were common enough 30 years ago. A trawl through the 1985 output of newspapers, radio and TV might produce a crop of red faces.

AFTER sticking faithfully with BBC1 through three episodes of *And Then There Were None*, the same old question about Agatha Christie's plots won't go away. How on earth did we make a national treasure out of a woman who peddled such implausible tosh?

A READER offers a new social measure. If you're still proud of owning your own house and your own car, he says, then you're definitely working class.

IT is weird enough seeing daffs sprouting and songbirds canoodling in this balmy winter. The really bizarre and unpleasant thing is the sight of so many blotchy blokes wearing shorts. Oh, dear.

THE New Year kicked off with a dark warning that "dozens of moderate Labour MPs" are prepared to quit Parliament rather than serve under Jeremy Corbyn? Oh, yeah?



And do what? There are few jobs that pay £50,000 a year plus expenses, particularly if your only qualification is as a party activist and bag-carrier.

If 50 Labour MPs quit tomorrow, 1,000 Corbyn-loyal candidates would instantly step forward. The truth, beyond the worst imaginings of many Labour politicians this time last year, is that Corbyn has not only won the party leadership but is not making a bad job of it.

WE live in the age of the drone. These flying machines fitted with video cameras bring us unrivalled coverage of everything from gardening programmes to the TV news and are superb at capturing the extent of the floods. For a few quid, producers now have access to camera-angles that used to involve booking a helicopter and film crew for a whole day at ruinous expense. Good news for the programme makers and the TV viewers. Bad news, presumably, for the helicopter industry.

DRIVERS are celebrating the price of petrol falling below £1 per litre. I reflect sadly on the day I decided I had to sell my wonderful old Rover 110 because petrol had just hit 50p per gallon.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Lying parents face toughest authority

A TOTAL of 865 investigations into school admission fraud have taken place in the Black Country and Staffordshire over the past three years – and the vast majority of them have been carried out by Dudley Council.

Dudley Council conducted the largest number of investigations in the country over that period. At the same time authorities in Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton conducted just 21 investigations between them, while Staffordshire County Council launched 14 probes into potentially fraudulent admissions.

The figures reveal huge differences in the way councils investigate sus-

pected admissions fraud, sparking fears that youngsters across the region are being denied their rightful place at oversubscribed schools because of cheating by other parents.

Relatives

Over three years, 39 youngsters in the Black Country and Staffordshire had school places taken away following investigations. All the cases

involved parents lying about their addresses to get a place at the school of choice, even using the addresses of relatives and vacant properties.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children services, said: "Where our data flags up anomalies we thoroughly investigate to make sure that there is no fraudulent activity and take the appropriate action where it is proven there is."

Pensioner tricked out of £13,000 in roof con

By Richard Guttridge

A CRUEL conman tricked a woman in her 90s into paying thousands of pounds for a roofing job which actually cost a fraction of the price, a court heard.

Salesman Graham Purcell claimed his roof coating was a low-cost alternative to re-roofing. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

But he massively inflated the cost of a new roof to make his offer appear a cheaper alternative. It was part of a con targeting elderly and vulnerable people which brought in £8 million over three years.

In one case, the crook told a vulnerable 91-year-old from Stourbridge she would have to pay £30,000 to re-roof her home before quoting her £17,850 for what he described as a thermal roofing paint. He then lowered the quote to £13,000 to make it look like she was getting a good deal.

Heat

He claimed the work could reduce heat loss by up to 25 per cent, make the roof maintenance free and increase the value of her property. In reality, the cost of the work done was no more than £1,000.

Tests proved the paint would actually increase maintenance costs and devalue properties.

The cost of a new roof would have been around £11,000.

He worked a similar con on another person aged in their 90s from Dudley borough.

Purcell, aged 32, a salesman at Therna Seal UK, based in Tamworth, was given a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years, after being found guilty of four counts of fraud following a trial. He must also complete 150 hours of community service. The case against Purcell, of Manning Road, Droitwich, was brought by Dudley's trading standards team.

Earlier this year the firm's directors Christopher Wilkes and Alan Wilson were jailed for five years.

Tally ho! Hundreds turn out for hunt



Eager beagle — the hounds and riders gather for the annual Albrighton and Woodland hunt at Hagley Hall
MORE than 1,000 people turned out for the annual festive hunt at Hagley Park.

Around 70 riders took part in the traditional hunt in the 350-acre grounds surrounding Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge.

Crowds welcomed the hunters on horseback who were flanked by the hounds as they posed in front of the hall before setting off at 11am on Boxing Day.

The hunt at Hagley took place at exactly the same time as a hunt in Newport, which is also organised by the Albrighton and Woodland Hunt.

Since fox hunting was banned in 2004, the hunters have followed trails around the grounds, where the hounds sniff out the scent without any foxes harmed.

Hunt secretary Justin Hill said: "Horses and hounds have hunted on Boxing Day for hundreds of years.

"Everybody is welcome and it is a great social occasion. It is part of Christmas."

Ann Thompson, from Birmingham, has been attending the hunts since the 1940s. The 77-year-old, whose granddaughter Amy Parkes was part of the hunt, said: "It is a British tradition. I love the animals and this is a beautiful place. A lot of people support it and I am one of them."

Huntsman Daniel Hammett said: "It is nice to see so many faces. You get a lot of people who don't normally come during the season but come out for the Boxing Day meet."

Lucky couple will be first wed at £1m chapel venue

A COUPLE will win a wedding worth £6,000 and become the first to tie the knot at a Black Country chapel since its £1.2 million renovation.

Workers have been putting the finishing touches to the major revamp of the Grade II listed Lye and Wollescote Chapel in Stourbridge.

Registrars launched the competition to celebrate the re-opening of the chapel, based at Lye and Wollescote cemetery, in Cemetery Road.

The first wedding at the restored building is on April 2 and one lucky couple will win a wedding package worth £6,000 to help towards the wedding reception, the dress, flowers and photos.

Entries closed on Sunday and the entrants wrote their story, in no more than 200 words, saying why they should win. A panel of judges including Dudley's mayor and mayoress, Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jane, will select a shortlist of couples. The public will then be invited to vote for a winner.

The chapel has undergone substantial work to turn it into a new registration office for civil ceremonies. It has been renamed the Thomas Robinson building after its original architect. Built in 1879 the building is made up of two Victorian Gothic-style chapels, which will house the registration office in one and a stylish new wedding venue the other.

The refurbishment was carried out by West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Dudley Council.

St John hero has received honour

A St John Ambulance volunteer from Tividale who has been with the charity since he was a child has been invested into the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

The Order of St John is a Royal Order of Chivalry and each recipient is approved by the Queen.

Neil Hadley, 44, from Tividale, was invested at a ceremony in London. He is the regional assurance manager for St John Ambulance in the West Midlands, and also holds a voluntary role as the district clinical lead (nursing).

Neil joined the charity as a cadet when he was 11.

In November hereceived a chief officer's commendation from the West Midlands Ambulance Service for his part in treating people in an overturned car in Birmingham city centre.

Man hurt in six foot fall from a ladder

A MAN was injured when he fell 6ft from a ladder in Stourbridge.

The 61-year-old suffered head injuries and had back pain after the fall on December 28 at around 2pm. He was given pain relief by ambulance staff.

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Tributes to a popular biker who lost his life

A MOTORCYCLIST who died after a crash in the Black Country has been named, as tributes pour in for the 'fun-loving family man'.

Robert 'Claude' Christopher, aged 39, died after suffering a cardiac arrest at the scene of the crash in Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, on December 29 following an accident involving two cars.

Tributes have been paid to Mr Christopher, of Regis Heath Road, who was a member of a biking group.

A close family member, who did not want to be named, said: "Robert was a great, great man, more like a brother to me than a friend.

"There was no such thing as a bad situation for him, he turned everything into an absolute positive and always did it with a smile on his face.

"He lived for his family and for our bike group, Ruff Ryders. He had been a keen biker for many years and everybody in the biking community loved him, you couldn't help but not. He should be remembered as the fun loving family man he was."

Flowers have been left at the scene. Tributes have also been paid on Facebook to Mr Christopher, who was also known as 'Triple A' in the biking community. Members of the Rowley Regis-based Evolution and Spitfire MCC of Birmingham have paid their respects at the scene of the tragedy.

Crash investigators have appealed for witnesses. Anyone with information should contact police on 101. No-one in either of the cars was injured.

Family brewery improving safety

A FAMILY brewery is creating a new service yard and staff car park.

The improvements to Batham's Brewery at The Vine pub, Brierley Hill, will also pave the way for modernisation work at the 138-year-old business in 2017.

Director Matthew Batham said currently the car park was on the other side of the road to the brewery and pub, known locally as The Bull and Bladder, in Delph Road.

"The yard will enable us to get our delivery vehicles off the road and improve loading and unloading," he added.

Mr Batham said that it would improve safety on the busy road used by many to reach Merry Hill shopping centre.

Police to host public meeting

POLICE will be hosting a community meeting in Kingswinford later this month.

The public meeting will be held on January 27 at the community centre on High Street at 6.30pm.

£3.6m unpaid tax owed to council

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council is owed £3.6 million in unpaid council tax that should have been paid over the last five years.

The authority is also waiting on £3.7m of business rates, figures revealed.

In addition, the council, which is considering shutting Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and reducing library opening hours due to a lack of cash, has missed out on almost £10m in council tax and business rates which have been written off since 2010.

A total of £1.75m of council tax that should have been paid during 2014/15 remains outstanding on top of £910,000 from the previous 12 months.

Significant sums are still owed going back to

2010. A total of £483,000 remains outstanding from 2012/13, £333,000 from 2011/12 and £232,000 from 2010/11. In terms of business rates, the council currently has a shortfall of £2.4m from the last financial year.

Pursuing

It is also owed £825,000 from 2013/14, £282,000 from 2012/13, £189,000 from 2011/12 and £31,000 from 2010/11.

Finance chiefs said money owed was gradually being clawed back and insisted the total owed was a small amount compared in the total the comes in through council tax and business rates. Bosses give up on sums which they decide are no longer

worth pursuing. Since 2010/11 just over £2m that should have gone into the coffers in council tax has been written off. Bosses have already given up on £375,000 from last year.

Bosses said tax debt was only written off when all efforts to collect it had been exhausted.

Councillor David Sparks, cabinet member for finance, said: "Dudley Council has consistently been amongst the best performing councils at getting council tax in.

"However, it's not an easy task and it's impossible to achieve a 100 per cent success rate. But we do aim to raise as much as we possibly can and we are continually looking at ways of improving our effectiveness. We do in fact collect a lot of the arrears."

£40k paid out for after potholes cause damage

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has had to fork out more than £40,000 in the past three years due to damage caused by potholes.

There were 185 successful claims from motorists whose vehicles were damaged by potholes across the borough between October 1, 2012 to October 1, 2015.

The figures, revealed by a Freedom of Information request, reveal the authority has had to shell out £40,322.24 in that period.

UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood described the highways as being 'in dire straits' and called for improvements.

But cabinet member Hilary Bills said the authority 'had invested a lot of time and money into tackling potholes' and regularly inspected its roads.

In the three-year period, there were 389 claims put in by drivers, with 204 unsuccessful and 185 successful.

Councillor Paul Brothwood said: "The roads are absolutely terrible across the borough, I've had so many complaints from residents.

"My concern again is that it's due to poor planning from the council and focusing on the short term. I think that's why we've had underinvestment in our roads in the borough. They really are in dire straits. More money needs to be put into the roads to keep them fit for purpose."

Care

Councillor Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We take great care to ensure our highways are safe for people to use and have invested a lot of time and money into tackling potholes. We received three years worth of additional funding from the national Highways Challenge Fund to tackle issues.

"We also make regular inspections of our roads to highlight any areas in need of repair and respond accordingly.

"People can also report issues to us in a number of ways by calling 0300 555 2345, online at www.dudley.gov.uk or using the Dudley Council smartphone app."

Meanwhile, More than 1,000 potholes have been repaired on motorways in the Midlands.

A total of 106 compensation claims were made to Highways England over damaged vehicles across the M6, M5 and M54 locally over the past 12 months.

But just 11 payouts were made — totalling £3,428 — after the claims were investigated.



The former Savoy cinema first opened as The Scala in 1920 and after closure in 1982 has variously been a shop, a gym and a lap dancing club

Art deco former cinema for sale

A FORMER cinema in the heart of Stourbridge town centre has been put on the market for £600,000.

The Savoy, complete with ornate art deco style facade, closed its doors to cinema-goers more than 30 years ago.

Since then it has had a variety of uses including controversially as a lap dancing club called Heaven.

A supermarket and gym have also been based at the building, which first opened in 1920 as The Scala before being renamed The Savoy in 1943. It closed as a cinema in 1982, when the building was gutted for conversion into a supermarket.

Signs

Old signs are still partially visible on the outside of the building although there are signs of decay.

The 16,000 sqft three-storey building, in Lower High Street, is available for sale through Birmingham-based estate agents Siddall Jones.

The owners will consider offers in the region of £600,000 according to the estate agents, although plans to rent the site may also be considered.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Satisfaction award for care company

A DUDLEY home care company has been honoured with a special award.

The 'Changing Face of Caregiving Award' was awarded to Home Instead Senior Care to acknowledge their extraordinary high rate of satisfaction.

The award recognises the outcome of a satisfaction survey conducted anonymously by an independent research company across the national Home Instead network of more than 4100 employees across 166 offices. Ian Williams, owner of the Dudley office, said: "It makes us very happy to know that our caregivers are happy."

Weekly classes in yoga to start

A CHARITY is launching a new yoga class to help encourage older people to take up the discipline

Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen will be starting the new class tomorrow (Friday).

It is ideal for beginners and the more experienced.

Participants can learn postures and gentle flowing sequences in a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

The classes are weekly at Age Concern, Elton Centre at St John's, in Stourbridge, from 11.15am until 12.30pm. Call 01348 443296.

Hall history talk by Lord Cobham

LORD Cobham will be giving a talk about his ancestral home Hagley Hall at the next meeting of the Black Country Society.

The lecture called Hagley, Past Present and Future will take place on January 27 at 7.30 pm at the Black Country Living Museum.

Non-members are welcome to attend. Admission is £2.

Formed in 1967, members examine the past, present and future of the Black Country.

Following yellow brick road to Brierley Hill

THE much-loved fantasy and musical The Wizard of Oz will be coming to Brierley Hill this summer and budding singers and actors are being invited to join the cast for their journey on the yellow brick road.

Rehearsals begin this week at St Michaels Church and the show is being staged at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from June 7 to 11. Anyone interested in being involved in the production should email Kathryn Head at kath.rynhead1@googlemail.com

Councillors meet public

QUARRY Bank and Dudley Wood residents can raise issues with local councillors tomorrow (Friday). Councillors David Sparks, Jackie Cowell and Bryan Cotterill will be at the Adult Learning Centre in Pavilion Gardens from 6pm and at the former warden's house, Woodhouse Court, from 7pm.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



All depends on just how police will spend cash

DAVID Jamieson, the police and crime commissioner for the West Midlands, raises an interesting debate when he proposes a £5-a-year rise in what the force charges the average household for its services.

He says without the increase the force will be forced to save £3.3 million a year, and when towns the size of Dudley are finding themselves without a police station, it does seem that something needs to be done.

However, for all the protests about savage cuts, it is worth noting that real-terms police spending – allowing for inflation – is still £1 billion a year higher than it was at the turn of the Millennium. When, if my memory serves me rightly, we still had police stations.

So is the increase really justified? I suspect most people will take the view that it depends how the money is spent. If it means halting the closure of police stations in some of our biggest and busiest towns, then I imagine most people would gladly stump up.

However, if the money is going to be spent on more speed cameras, more "safety partnerships", more political correctness, more prosecutions for so-called "hate crimes" which just a few years ago would have been considered little more than bad manners, then the public will probably be more sceptical.

■■■■

STAYING with policing, few people will argue with the Government's plans to increase the penalties for drivers caught using their mobile phones.

Alarmingly, a survey in the West Mercia force area revealed that nearly four in 10 motorists admitted checking their phones while driving, with one in 10 admitting to searching the internet.

Clearly this is unacceptable and dangerous. However, the trade-off for stiffer penalties must surely be a degree of discretion in the enforcement of the rules.

Motorists who brazenly drive around with the phones glued to their ear, leaving a trail of chaos behind, are clearly a menace, and deserve little sympathy if they get the book thrown at them. The same applies to those who send text messages on the move.

However, letting your boss know you are going to be late when you are sat in stationary traffic with the handbrake firmly on and the gearbox in neutral? That cannot possibly pose a risk to anybody. Yet under the present laws it still constitutes an offence if the keys are in the ignition and the engine is running.

Interestingly, this presents an interesting legal question. Many modern cars have keyless ignition, and a device which cuts the engine off the moment the car grinds to a standstill. So if you send a text message while stationary in traffic, with the engine off and the keys firmly in your pocket, does that constitute an offence?



CCTV footage of the gunman leaving Richard Deakin's home



Victim Richard Deakin



Scene of the 2010 murder in Meadway Street, Chasetown

Heartbroken mother makes plea to hitmen

Carol Deakin is still seeking answers over the death of her son five years ago. **PETER MADELEY** takes up the story

"I BELIEVE justice will come. The man who paid to have my son killed is still out there. Eventually the truth will come out."

So says Carol Deakin, the mother of businessman Richard Deakin who was shot to death as he lay in bed at his family home in Chasetown some five and a half years ago.

For Carol and the rest of his heartbroken family, time has not proved to be a great healer.

Three years ago hired gun David Harrison was jailed for 37 years for carrying out the murder, while getaway driver Darryl Dickens was sent down for 30 years.

Police have always believed the pair were paid to carry out the hit – although the identity of those behind the crime has never been ascertained.

Accused

Tipton drug kingpin John Anslow – currently serving 29 years for drug dealing and escaping from a prison van before fleeing the country – was accused of setting up the killing, but was found not guilty after a trial last year.

Following Anslow's acquittal police said they were not pursuing anyone else in connection with the case, but Carol says the thought of someone getting away with murder has left her unable to rest.

It has also filled her with a steely determination to make sure that no one goes unpunished for the act which she says has destroyed her life.

Carol is now appealing to the men convicted of killing her son to reveal who paid them to do it.

"I want David Harrison to stand up and be a man and say who paid him to kill my son," said Carol, aged 54, of Cheslyn Hay.



Richard's mother Carol, of Cheslyn Hay, has made the appeal to the hitmen

"He has got nothing to lose. Harrison will probably never get out of prison. But he knows who gave the orders. He could give me some peace of mind by telling the police who paid him."

"I firmly believe there is still someone out there who has got away with murder. Until that person is made to pay for what they have done there won't be anything even close to a sense of closure for any of us in Richard's family."

"I still can't believe it has happened. We were a very close family."

"Richard was a hardworking man who didn't get into any trouble. He was not involved in drug dealing. He was a good man who was devoted to his family. My son was killed for nothing. He was stolen from us. I'd give anything to have him back."

am concerned there are still loose ends to tie up."

Mr Deakin's daughters Elle and Jessica are now aged nine and seven respectively.

Carol said they both regularly talk about their loving father, particularly Elle, who she says "remembers everything" about the day of his tragic death.

"She was four at the time, old enough to understand what was happening," Carol said. "I asked her what she wanted for Christmas and she said a locket with a picture of her daddy in it."

"It's heartbreaking. I've got a lock of his hair so I'm going to put that in the locket for her with a picture."

"She's got all of his expressions. Her dad was quite shy and she's got his personality."

"Jess is Richard's double. How can you explain to children so young about something so terrible?"

"It is tragic that Megan has been left to bring up two such beautiful children without Richard."

Terrible

"Each and every day is so hard, but Christmas brings back so many memories."

"Every Christmas Eve he would come around and stay until the new year. It is just not the same anymore. It's the worst time of year for me."

"I live my life day by day and he never leaves my head," added heartbroken Carol.

"Every Sunday I got to bed at night and I'm filled with sadness."

"All I can think about is Richard. He was killed on a Monday, so I always have a terrible feeling on Sundays because I'm thinking back to the day when it happened."

"I hate Mondays to this day. He never leaves my head."

Carol says she has 'total belief' that whoever ordered her son's murder will one day be caught.

"I believe in karma," she added.

"Whoever paid them (Harrison and Dickens) to do this cowardly act will have it in their minds every day. One day justice will catch up on them."

"I will keep on fighting until that person is sent to prison."

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

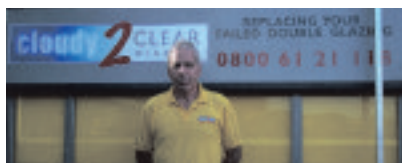
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Century of steel rubbed out

I AM writing on behalf of the 33 steelworkers who were made redundant from the Ductile Stourbridge Cold Mills, Willenhall, on December 18.

Now here's a company which for 90-odd years had processed quality steel strip for the manufacturing industry and continued to make a profit.

Then along came Caparo who bought us and decided in their great wisdom and judgement to amalgamate us with a company in West Bromwich, which will remain

nameless, who in turn slowly but surely began to strip us of all our assets and infrastructure — leaving us like sitting ducks if a situation came along.

Well thanks Caparo and nameless company for wiping 105 years of steel-making from the face of the earth.

Generations of steelworkers — fathers, sons, brothers, sisters — gone.

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It's simple — clear drains

THERE are lots of theories being put forward to the reasons why the heavy rainfall is not draining away — house building on flood plains and farmers not playing their part by stopping the excess water just running off their fields. Some years ago, I got into trouble by blaming the farmers, so I will just let them stew over the thought that heavy machinery compacts the sub-soils.

So let us have a shot at the people who control the council's purse-strings. Years ago it was a common site to see gully emptiers going round and cleaning out the drains.

What has happened to them? This was highlighted on a news bulletin when a man using a hook, pulled up a cover from a drain, and the floodwater just started to swirl away into the hole!

P COLE
Kingswinford

Thatcher sale sparks questions

I WATCHED the BBC News item concerning an auction of Mrs Thatcher's private belongings. I noted, however that one of the most sought-after items was her dispatch box. This item has a clearly embossed symbol 'E II R' on the front. Dispatch boxes are items commonly used for Government purposes. As far as I am aware, all items marked or embossed with the royal symbol 'E II R' are the property of The Crown and belong to the state.

I cannot recall any other instances of such items being sold at private auction. If my interpretations are correct, serious questions must be raised about Thatcher's claim to ownership and how it came to be sold in a private auction decades after she had left office? Furthermore, shouldn't the money raised from the sale of that item then go to the Treasury? If so, how strange it is that Osborne and Cameron haven't noticed the money lost in such a high-profile sale?

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Concern at future of Hippodrome site

I REMEMBER the happy times I spent at Dudley Hippodrome. It served the community well — schools, scouts, girl guides and other groups would organise trips.

The town was always lively but sadly has gone into decline. The good news is the zoo is undergoing a revival, also the added attraction of the Black Country Living Museum and the proposed new Metro line — yet the Hippodrome is being ignored. I doubt if Dudley will ever again see and hear the excited cries of groups of children leaving the zoo and Hippodrome on their coach trips.

The Dudley councillors' move to flatten the Hippodrome is a crime against the town and the people who

elected them. They should hang their heads in shame.

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre and Birmingham Hippodrome are thriving. Groups still flock there including elderly people. My main concern, there may be a more sinister move for flattening the Hippodrome, turning it into an open space that could be built on at a later date. It would be ripe for the picking.

Dudley Council has pledged to help find somewhere to build the new mosque. The people of Dudley are entitled to know the reason for flattening an iconic building that has brought so much pleasure and can continue to do so.

H ROPER
Tipton

Sleigh master says thanks

THE Kingswinford & Stourbridge Lions Club would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who gave so generously during our annual Santa sleigh tour.

To all of the grown-ups and children, who braved the wet weather to meet Santa we hope you had a very Happy Christmas.

During our travels Santa and his sleigh collected £8,485 which will be distributed by the club to nominated charities at a presentation evening at the Stourbridge Institute and Social Club on January 25.

STEVE RICE
Dudley & S'bridge Lions

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VIP treatment in store for pampered shoppers

TWO Dudley women had the VIP treatment thanks to a supermarket chain's ultimate shopping experience.

Lucky shoppers Pam Aston and Jessica Attewell were pampered at the town's Tesco Extra store, and sat back and relaxed as staff did their Christmas shopping for them.

They were among the eight winners nationwide, with two from each participating store in Warrington, Cardiff and Romford Gallows Corner.

Pam and Jessica won a £50 pamper treatment voucher for the Town Gate Retail Park store, while a personal shopper was deployed to carry out a shop worth £150, funded by Tesco.

The ladies won their prizes just by filling in a form in store. Helping them to look extra sparkly for the big day, they enjoyed a gel nail manicure and pedicure, as well as having a wash, cut and blow-dry.

Fun

To complete the ultimate VIP experience, the winners also enjoyed glasses of Champagne and nibbles throughout the day, and they didn't even need to worry about driving as Tesco organised for a luxury car to transport them to and from the store.

Store manager Michael Burke said: "This Christmas our colleagues have been going the extra mile to make all our customers' time in store as fun and festive as possible.

"We're delighted that we could take this one step further by completing Pam and Jessica's Christmas shop whilst they enjoyed being winned, dined and pampered. And the whole shop was on us!"



Winners with store boss Michael Burke



Pam and Jessica toast their win



Jessica Attewell is pampered in Tesco Extra's Beauty World

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Council branded 'inept' over Hippodrome saga

DUDLEY Council has been branded 'inept' after it emerged bosses do not know how much a plan to demolish Dudley Hippodrome and replace it with a landscaped public space will cost.

West Midlands Euro MP and Dudley councillor Bill Etheridge says he has been informed that artist's impressions were only 'an initial design' and the scheme had not yet been priced.

The council is keen to remove the historic building 'at the earliest opportunity'. But a period of consultation over the future of the Hippodrome is ongoing with the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group still hopeful they can save the venue.

UKIP's Councillor Etheridge has criticised the authority and said taxpayers in the borough cannot know whether they are getting a good deal if they don't know how much it will cost to knock down the building.

Millions

He also joined critics of plan to create an open public space on the site of the former theatre, saying it was not wanted in the town.

But council chiefs hit back saying it would make 'absolutely no sense' to spend money when the consultation period was still ongoing.

Councillor Etheridge said: "To plough ahead with a decision to demolish the building when proper costings have not been done is, quite frankly, inept."

"Repeatedly the taxpayers of Dudley have been told there is no money to renovate the theatre and bring it back into use. Here we are with a scheme, that given the cost of the recent upgrade to Coronation Gardens, could cost millions."



Dudley Hippodrome, on Castle Hill, was once the town's premier venue

"The demolition costs are huge, now we are faced with paying for an open space that nobody wants or sees a need for."

The MEP added: "Dudley ratepayers deserve value for money. They are not going to get that when the council pursue schemes where money is obviously no object."

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Khurshid Ahmed said: "The images that went to cabinet were for illustrative purposes. Given that we have already made a very clear commitment

to speaking to local people in a consultation exercise around the future of this important area, if we demolish this dilapidated building, then it would make absolutely no sense to spend money and pre-empt the outcome of that consultation exercise."

Dudley Council has expressed the view that groups have had long enough to form a rescue package for the Hippodrome after a plan involving a entertainment organisation fell through.

Councillor Ahmed said the council cannot afford to maintain the building.

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Royal chat about Dudley as councillor gets MBE



Pride and pageantry — Councillor Mrs Lynn Boleyn and son Ben pose with the Beefeaters at Buckingham Palace

THE community work of a councillor has been recognised at the highest level.

Lynn Boleyn, councillor for King'swinford North and Wall Heath, was presented with an MBE by Prince Charles to mark her public service.

Mrs Boleyn, who attended Buckingham Palace with her son Ben and partner, Andy Kyriakou, was given her medal for services to Wall Heath.

She said: "I am extremely proud and honoured to have been awarded the MBE. It was an honour to meet Prince Charles."

"He thanked me for the work I had

done and asked me what part of the West Midlands I was from. I told him I lived near to Dudley where Sir Lenny Henry was from. He told me he had visited Dudley in the past and asked me if the market was still there. He was pleased to hear it was."

Mrs Boleyn spearheaded a campaign to keep Maidensbridge Primary School open in 2005 and has been a governor of the school for 14 years. She helped raise £1.2 million for pitches and changing rooms as charity trustee of Kewford Eagles Football Club.

She was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2012 and was nominated for the MBE by her son.



Prince Charles presents the medal

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Work to start on estate's centre

A COMMUNITY centre will finally be built, marking the final stage of a major transformation of a housing estate.

Work on the centre on the North Priory estate in Dudley will start in 2016 — it comes eight years after a campaign started for a replacement venue.

It will replace the former community buildings on the Donkey Pool playing fields, Priory Road, that were knocked down in September 2007.

Ground works have now begun on the site with construction works to start in spring.

Councillor Ken Finch said it had been a long time coming. He added: "We have had promises since the other buildings were knocked down and nothing happened. But now it is finally going ahead and it feels like winning the lottery for our community."

Victorian Bakers at museum



Annie Gray and Alex Langlands are the presenters of TV series Victorian Bakers

A NEW TV series on the history of baking, hosted by Annie Gray and Alex Langlands, has been filmed at The Black Country Living Museum.

The three-part series Victorian Bakers started this week, with the first episode shown on Tuesday on BBC2 and repeated this Saturday evening.

The second episode, going out next week, was filmed at the museum and features the rear of a bakery that once stood on Birmingham New Road.

The series sees four modern bakers recreate the life and work of their Victorian predecessors using authentic methods and recipes from the 19th century.

Leaving behind modern tools, bakers will experience three different worlds of Victorian baking — a rural bakery with close ties to agriculture; the sweat and toil of an

More than 430 knives seized from people searched at courts

MORE than 430 knives have been confiscated from people entering courts in the Black Country and Staffordshire during the past two years, new figures reveal.

The majority of the blades were seized at Wolverhampton magistrates' and crown courts, the HM Courts and Tribunals Service statistics show.

As well as knives, security staff seized replica firearms, dozens of tools, alcohol and bottles of perfume.

Of the 437 total, security staff in Wolverhampton took 328 knives from people going through the doors of the city's two courts between November 2013 and October this year.

Destroyed

Fifty one were confiscated at Walsall Magistrates' Court, 28 at Stafford Crown Court, 18 at Dudley Magistrates' Court and 12 at Warley Magistrates' Court.

The knives can be passed on to police and destroyed. Some may be returned if owners make a request in writing but only after strict checks.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris campaigned for tougher sentencing after the death of 16-year-old Christina Edkins, who was stabbed on a bus in Birmingham while on her way to Leasowes High School in Halesowen in 2013.

The MP welcomed the action to confiscate knives. He said: "These figures show that a substantial number of knives have been taken off our streets through seizures in our local courts. It is important that these weapons are seized and destroyed, so that our streets are a safer place."

Special training for foster care

MORE than 180 foster carers have benefited from a scheme giving them training on challenging child behaviour.

Dudley Council has offered the KEEP training programme for the past six years. The positive parenting programme is designed to improve carers skills and resilience while promoting the healthy development of looked-after children.

Since its introduction, 185 foster carers have graduated from one of three KEEP programmes based on the age of the child and take up to 20 weeks to complete. Children's services boss Councillor Ian Cooper said: "Our aim is to equip every carer with the skills they need."

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/fostering or call (01384) 815833 for details.

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English wine sales a boost at vineyard

ENGLISH wine is flying off the shelves at a vineyard near Dudley.

Ben Godbehere from Halfpenny Green Vineyard, Bobington, said international awards for some its best sellers had seen a surge in customers clamouring for home grown wine.

Halfpenny Green has notched a number of international awards over the last year and bBest-sellers have include its dry whites Mercia 2014 and Tom Hill 2014, with the Long Acre 2014 now being stocked by Marks & Spencer stores.

Just 30 per cent of all wines sold at the vineyard are reds but Mr Godbehere said their sales has also increased rapidly during the months of November and December.

He added that customers tended to opt for red wines during the colder months with its Penny Red, which can be used in mulled wine, selling particularly well.

Staff show generosity

COUNCIL staff in Dudley helped an annual Operation Santa campaign to reach a record number of donated Christmas gifts.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service received 13,542 items including children's clothing, school materials, toiletries, crafts, books, toys and games.

It organises and distributes the gifts to families who are struggling below the poverty line. Dudley Council staff collected items for the appeal at various offices across the borough.

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Netherton's ground control to Major Tim



Science enthusiasts at Hillcrest School during their session questioning the team behind the ESA space mission

SCHOOL pupils from Dudley were given the opportunity to question the team behind British astronaut Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

Hillcrest School and Community College on Simms Lane, Netherton, was one of only 25 schools nationwide — and the only one in Dudley borough — selected for the project 'I'm an Astronaut, Get me out of here'.

Students asked probing questions of the scientists, medics, engineer and flight controller who make up the Astro Support Team through online

text-based live chats. The Astro Support team will decide in the next few weeks the four schools whose pupils will take part in a live chat with Tim Peake himself as he hurtles around the Earth in the ISS at an orbit of around 250 miles high.

Mrs Victoria-Jayne Robertson, director of learning, said the pupils had a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will 'stimulate the curiosity, awe and wonder of science and technology'.

Former army officer Major Peake, from Chichester, is the first Briton to go into space with the European Space Agency. The very first Briton in space was Helen Sharman in 1991.



Astronaut Tim Peake, currently in orbit

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CREATIVE WRITING

Mon. 11th Jan. 19.00-21.00 5 wks. £35.00#

Mon. 22nd Feb. 19.00-21.00 5 wks. £35.00#

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

Fri. 22nd Jan. 10.00-12.00 3wks. £27.00#

Fri. 26th Feb. 10.00-12.00 3wks. £27.00#

HANDICRAFTS

BEGINNERS DRESSMAKING

Tues. 12th Jan. 09.30-11.30 10 wks. £68.00#

UPHOLSTERY

Tues. 12th Jan. 12.00-14.00 10 wks. £68.00#

Thurs. 14th Jan. 19.30-21.00 10 wks. £52.50#

UPHOLSTERY & SOFT FURNISHINGS

Wed. 13th Jan. 12.00-14.00 10 wks. £68.00#

PATCHWORK

Wed. 13th Jan. 14.30-16.30 10 wks. £68.00#

EMBROIDERY

Thurs. 14th Jan. 18.00-19.30 10 wks. £52.50#

SEWING MADE SIMPLE

Thurs. 14th Jan. 18.00-20.00 10 wks. £65.00#

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE

Fri. 26th Feb. 12.30-15.30 2 wks. £40.00#

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER

Fri. 11th Mar. 12.30-15.30 2 wks. £40.00#

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINDFULNESS

Mon. 18th Jan. 19.30-21.00 4 wks. £27.00#

MEDITATION FOR WELLBEING

Thurs. 3rd Mar. 19.30-21.00 4 wks. £27.00#

WORKSHOPS

RAG RUG MAKING

Tues. 22nd Mar. 14.30-17.30 1 wk. £20.00

HEALTH AND FITNESS

INTRODUCTION TO PILATES

Thurs. 14th Jan. 17.45-19.00 5 wks. £17.50#

Thurs. 25th Feb. 17.45-19.00 4 wks. £14.00#

PILATES

Beg. Fri. 8th Jan. 10.00 - 11.00 10 wks. £40.00#

Imp. Tues. 12th Jan. 19.00 - 20.00 10 wks. £35.00

Imp. Wed. 13th Jan. 18.30 - 19.30 10 wks. £35.00

Imp. Thurs. 14th Jan. 19.05 - 20.05 9 wks. £31.50

Imp. Thurs. 14th Jan. 20.10 - 21.10 9 wks. £31.50

FITNESS YOGA

Beg. Tues. 12th Jan. 20.05 - 21.05 10 wks. £35.00

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:

Beg. Mon. 4th Jan. 19.00-19.45 11 wks. £31.50#

Beg. Tues. 12th Jan. 19.00-19.45 10 wks. £31.50#

Imp. Mon. 4th Jan. 19.45-20.30 11 wks. £31.50#

Int. Mon. 4th Jan. 20.30-21.15 11 wks. £31.50#

HEALTHY BALANCE

Tues. 19th Jan. 18.00 - 19.00 9 wks. £31.50#

DANCE

DANCE FIT

Beg. Tues. 12th Jan. 19.00-20.00 10 wks. £35.00

BALLROOM DANCING

Beg. Mon. 11th Jan. 18.45-19.45 10 wks. £36.60

Int. Mon. 11th Jan. 19.45 - 21.00 10 wks. £45.75

GUITAR (ADULTS)

Beg. Thurs. 21st Jan. 19.00-20.30 4 wks. £21.00#

Beg. Thurs. 25th Feb. 19.00-20.30 5 wks. £26.25#

Imp. Tue. 12th Jan. 19.00-21.00 10 wks. £65.00#

Int. Mon. 11th Jan. 19.00-21.00 10 wks. £65.00#

CHILDRENS GUITAR

PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)

Level 1 Mon. 11th Jan. 16.45-17.45 5 wks. £45.75

Level 2 Mon. 11th Jan. 17.45-18.45 5 wks. £45.75

Level 1 Mon. 22nd Feb. 16.45-17.45 5 wks. £45.75

Level 2 Mon. 22nd Feb. 17.45-18.45 5 wks. £45.75

Level 3 Thur. 13th Jan. 17.45-18.45 10 wks. £50.00

BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

COMPUTING SKILLS: THE BASICS

Tues. 26th Jan. 14.30-16.30 3 wks. £27.00#

COMPUTING SKILLS: INTERNET + EMAIL

Tues. 23rd Feb. 14.30-16.30 3 wks. £27.00#

COMPUTER COURSES

(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

PHOTOSHOP - AN INTRODUCTION (1)

Mon. 11th Jan. 09.30-11.30 5 wks. £45.00#

PHOTOSHOP - (2)

Mon. 22nd Feb. 09.30-11.30 5 wks. £45.00#

MASTERING YOUR ANDROID TABLET

Mon. 11th Jan. 19.00-21.00 5 wks. £45.00#

BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY

Mon. 11th Jan. 19.00-21.00 4 wks. £36.00#

Wed. 20th Jan. 09.30-11.30 4 wks. £36.00#

Wed. 24th Feb. 09.30-11.30 4 wks. £36.00#

CREATE YOUR OWN WEBSITE

Mon. 22nd Feb. 19.00-21.00 5 wks. £45.00#

AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE FEARS AWAY

Tues. 26th Jan. 09.30-11.30 6 wks. £54.00#



Learning4Life have a range of facilities available for hire

- ★ Gym, Swimming Pool & Football Pitches
 - ★ Hall, Meeting Rooms and Classrooms
- For more information and competitive prices please call us on the number below



Funded by
**Skills
Funding
Agency**



Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets () includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended during 15th Feb. to 21st Feb. unless stated otherwise

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

With effect from September 2015, due to a card processing change through Dudley MBC, a 1.2% charge will be added to all credit card payments. Debit card payments remain unchanged.



SWIM SCHOOL



With over 20 years experience of teaching local children, Learning4Life Swim School is the perfect venue for your child to learn to swim. We offer the following:-

- High levels of parent satisfaction - 94% rated our swimming tuition as Very Good or Excellent.
- Open 7 days a week
- A wide choice of convenient class times
- Friendly experienced teachers
- Class levels for Non-Swimmers to Advanced
- Free parking on site
- Individual Swimming lessons

For more information on availability & prices, please call 01384 816043

FAMILY LEARNING

The price includes a place for one adult (aged over 19) and a child.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SWIM

Children 18 mths-4yrs
Fri. 15th Jan. 10.15-11.00 9 wks. £30.00#

QUALIFICATIONS

RLSS NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD

15th Feb. - 20th Feb. 2016 £TBA

4th April - 9th April 2016 £TBA

25th July - 30th July 2016 £TBA

1st Aug. - 6th Aug. 2016 £TBA

DUDLEY INDUCTION TRAINING FOR

POOLSIDE ASSISTANT

Thurs. 24th Mar. 09.00-12.00 1 wk. £19.20

Fri. 17th June 09.00-12.00 1 wk. £19.20

LEVEL 2 AWARD FOOD SAFETY IN CATERING

Thurs. 25th Feb. 17.30-21.00 2 wks. £48.00

EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARD

Thurs 10th Mar. 18.00-21.00 15 wks. £350.00

FIRST AID

EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Fri. 22nd Jan. 13.00-16.00 2 wks. £38.40

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID

Fri. 12th Feb. 13.00-17.00 1 wk. £25.60

BESPOKE COURSES

DO YOU HAVE A GROUP OF STAFF WHO REQUIRE:

**EMERGENCY FIRST AID,
NATIONAL RESCUE TEST
FOR SWIMMING TEACHERS
AND COACHES,**

**POOL LIFEGUARD TRAINING
CALL 01384 816043 FOR A QUOTE**

COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Weekly pay as you go sessions

ADULT SWIMMING: Mon. 12.30-13.15, Thurs. 19.00-20.00 £3.00

AQUAFIT: Wed. 12.30-13.15, Fri. 12.30-13.15. £3.00

Wed. 19.00-20.00, Sun. 9.00-10.00. £4.00

FITNESS SWIM: Mon. 18.00-18.45. £3.00

for 10-19 yrs olds
INFORMATION?

E mail: l4lcommunitygroup@hotmail.co.uk

All places must be booked in advance

Tel. 01384 816043. Mon. to Fri. 9.00 - 13.00

studentservices@learning4life.co.uk

www.learning4life.co.uk



Awards at the double for Kay

A BUSINESSWOMAN from Sedgley has won two awards for her weight loss business and praise from her local MP.

Kay Bowen received the 'above and beyond' award and was named the highest achiever in the West Midlands by Cambridge Diet Weight Plan.

Ms Bowen has opened a new centre in the heart of Sedgley. She has also worked with restaurants to create healthy menus for people who want to lose weight.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who nominated Ms Bowen for an award, said: "I'm delighted to see Kay's success being recognised with these awards. I know how hard she has worked to come up with new ideas, support local charities and keep her business growing. I think she has done an absolutely brilliant job."

Billy strums up charity support



Brian Dakin, AKA Billy Spakemon, is showcasing local talent in aid of a cancer charity

A POET, author and broadcaster from Dudley has brought together a host of Black Country musicians to perform on a fundraising album and take part in a charity concert.

Billy Spake Mon, real name Brian Dakin, has released the 12 song album 'Christmas Dreams', which will see all proceeds go to Dudley's White House Cancer Support charity on Ednam Road. It provides help, support and information to people with cancer, their families, friends and carers in Dudley and surrounding areas.

Through his Omma n Chain Show on Black Country Community Radio with friends and collaborators John Langford and Peter Kelly, around 250 CDs have been made. The CD is available at the new Black Country T-shirts shop in Castle Street, Dudley.

Air Space bounces into Black Country

A TRAMPOLINE park has opened in Wolverhampton. Air Space Wolverhampton is located at Bentley Bridge Retail Park and is set out over two floors. It consists of over 100 interconnected trampolines, freestyle areas and activities.

The new attraction also contains Wolverhampton's first parkour and ninja run courses, which blend elements of freestyle running and military obstacle courses.

The £1.5 million park in Wednesfield has created 90 new jobs for the city and could compete in the Black Country with Jump Nation, who have stated their intentions to open a trampoline park on Bentley Mill Way in Walsall.

Air Space is looking to replicate its success from Scotland where its site in East Kilbride was used by more than 200,000 people in its first 12 months. It has further sites in Manchester and Stevenage.

More information is at www.air-space.co.uk website.

Combined authority to drive forward transport schemes

PLANS to revolutionise transport in the West Midlands will see the region 'speaking with one voice', according to transport bosses.

The 20-year Movement for Growth strategy has been adopted by the The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) after a three month consultation.

It will see new suburban rail lines, cycleways and Metro extensions throughout the region, with a raft of schemes earmarked for the Black Country.

All of the projects have been previously mooted, but the ITA aims to drive them through by 2035.

ITA chair Councillor Roger Lawrence said the vision was to create a fully-integrated train, bus and rapid transit system, a comprehensive cycle network and better roads and rail.

He said: "Movement for Growth will be the transport strategy for the forthcoming West Midlands Combined Authority and the region will be speaking with one voice in support of it. We have a clear path to follow so now is the time to move forward and deliver these schemes."

The projects include extending the Midland Metro tram route between Brierley Hill, Dudley and Wednesbury to connect to the existing line to Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

It will also bring improvements to junctions on the M5 and M6 motorways, as well as new rail services between Walsall and Stourbridge.

The Treasury has pledged £1 billion of Government cash to create the West Midlands Combined Authority, to include Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. It will oversee a 10-year devolved £8bn transport budget.

Mortgage age limit scrapped

DUDLEY Building Society has scrapped its age limits on mortgages in a move that it says is in line with the needs of an ageing population.

The society, which has its head office at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, and is led by chief executive Jeremy Wood, had previously had an aged limit of 75 by which time people had to repay the loan.

It will now consider applicants on the basis of affordability alone, not age, across its range of mortgages and it will apply to people wanting to re-mortgage and those seeking new mortgages.

The move has been sparked by an increasingly elderly population, the number of centenarians living in Britain has risen by 72 per cent over the past decade alone.

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EXAMPLE JOB

- Shower enclosure or bath
- New shower/basin/wc
- 15 sqm wall and floor tiling
- Debris removed

Only **£3850.00**

We are a team of tradesmen who understand local needs & this is our second store opening due to popular demand!

We are known for our craftsmanship and promptness when completing jobs and we serve to keep our prices low without dropping the quality of service!

DISABILITY SPECIAL OFFER

We have a good history of working with clients who have trouble using their bath

- New shower and folding seat and grab rail
- Receive a new easy access shower
- Tiled inside

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BIRMINGHAM Aldridge Road | Perry Barr | Birmingham | B42 2ET

Call us on 01384 279 997 or 0121 356 6003

Email: serenitybathroomsltd@outlook.com

www.serenitybathroomsltd.com

Fundraising at mosque

A MOSQUE in Halesowen raised more than £1,000 for charity following a Macmillan Coffee Morning.

More than 140 people attended the event held at the Baitul-Gafoor Mosque, with members baking and selling cakes and savouries in aid of the cancer charity. A bric-a-brac sale and henna art session also took place.

Saima Irfan, President of Ahmadiyya Women's Group Birmingham West, said: "This is our second fundraising event for Macmillan."

LIFESTYLES

Straits Mobility



Straits Mobility Services Ltd are an independant family run business based on the Russells Hall Estate in Dudley, conveniently located near to the hospital.

We specialise in the supply, repair and servicing of mobility aids, including stairlifts, mobility scooters, rise & recliner chairs etc to name but a few. We sell both straight and curved stairlifts by Acorn/Brooks and service all makes of stairlifts including minivator and with a fully equipped on site workshop have parts readily available. We also fit

replacement batteries for both stairlifts and mobility scooters and also do puncture repairs on scooters or wheelchairs.

We are a member of "The Fix A Home" Dudley Scheme of trusted tradesmen and prices are competitive with an excellent aftercare service and ongoing support.

We have an excellent range of mobility products in store so for all your mobility needs why not pay us a visit or give us a call on 01384 356 356 where we will be more than happy to help.

**3 Middle Park Road Russells Hall Estate
Dudley 01384 356356**

Bogarts

Here at Bogart's we have been trading for over 40 years and are a listed building. We went through a major conservation transformation in 2014. Alongside these works we have had a remarkable internal refurbishment inside and we would like to continue to welcome back old customers and say hello to new ones as well.

We provide comfort in our spacious 3 floor surrounding as we constantly strive to give all our customers confidence in our services. There's value for money in each treatment and regular offers on our Facebook page.

We stock a range of products; from hair gel's and sprays to hair straighteners and beauty products.

On the ground floor our barbershop offers traditional and high fashion styling for men and boys both on an appointment service or appointments.

The first floor is where you will find the ladies salon offering high fashion cutting, styling, colour, perms,



extensions, prom and wedding hair in a relaxed informal atmosphere.

On the second floor the beauty salon offers a quick fix beauty treatments and an excellent spray tan service in the utmost privacy and comfort.

**210 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley DY1 1ED
Telephone: 01384 212540**



Play Box Nursery

At Play Box, our motto is that children should 'Learn to Play and Play to Learn', meaning that whilst they are given the opportunity to achieve all the necessary levels of education and development, they are also having the most enjoyable time possible away from home.

Our staff are recruited not only on the basis of their qualifications, professionalism and experience, but also for their personal qualities.

Play Box offers places for children from 6 weeks to 5 years olds, and FREE 15 hours Early Education Funding places for children aged 3 to 5.

We open from 7.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.



We offer completely flexible childcare, on a full, part-time or shift basis.

For more information, please contact us on the numbers below.



**Rear of 12-14 High Street, Kingswinford, DY6 8XD Third Avenue, The Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, DY6 7XG
Telephone: 01384 401986 / 01384 835535**



Occasional Cakes

Welcome to Occasional Cakes

We provide a specialist service to the home cake decorator; we supply everything you could ever need and more. We stock everything from boards and boxes, over 700 ribbons and trimmings to choose from, Rich Fruit cake bases, edible cake toppers, Sugar flowers, plaques, novelty cake toppers and licensed characters such as Bob the Builder, Fairies, Barbie, Harry Potter, and many more.

We hold icings and sugar paste in over 23 colours, flower pastes in over 40 colours, Marzipan, Specialist cakes Mixes, cream Fillings, edible pictures, tools and veiners. There are well over 400 tins for hire, both novelty to traditional, and over 55 cake stands. We source items from all around the world. Let your imagination run free. Can we help you? Yes we can!



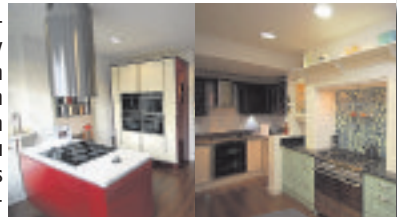
Cutters and tools and equipment by all means we will order and will to the best of our ability post it out to you the very same day.

Need decorations and balloons? Why not try our sister company Bostin' Balloons. Just ask in store.

**Shop 2 Barnett Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 9PJ
<http://www.occasionalcakesuk.com/>**

Studio 62 Kitchens

Studio 62 kitchens is a family run business which opened over 3 years ago by John and Christine Swinscoe with son Joe being the designer and installation manager. The showroom can be found in Gornal Village and if you're thinking of a new kitchen - it's well worth a visit, there's a variety of displays ranging from modern to traditional hand painted - with over 200 different doors there really is something for everyone. With Joe's eye for detail each design is tailored specifically to your space and needs with a huge range of appliances,



worktops, lighting, pull outs, sinks, flooring etc to choose from. You will be amazed at the transformation.

For a free survey call **01384 455755**

**62 Louise Street, Gornal, Dudley
Telephone: 01384 455755
www.studio62kitchens.co.uk**

Grandpa's Sweet Shop

Located in the heart of Wall Heath Village, Grandpa's Sweet Shop opened September 2015.

We stock a range of traditional, retro and modern sweets. It allows adults to reminisce while making new memories as children try something new.

We also have a great range of sugar free products to try as well.

You can also find our gift selection inc; retro toys, mugs and other lovely goodies and in addition to this we have sweet hampers, cones and bouquets. Feel free to request one and we will make it up to your liking.

For those special occasions, we have the perfect party bags and wedding favours and our very own sweet cart is on it's way. So keep in touch!



Our focus is to be friendly, approachable and provide the best service possible. We want to bring the high street alive again.

**13 Enville Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT
Telephone: 01384 270146**



MT Skips and Grab Hire

Local firm MT Skips offer a friendly service to cover all areas as well as a range of sizes of skips. They promise same day delivery and will also remove scrap cars FREE. They are open 7 days a week. We also provide a grab hire service, so for a prompt, professional service that's value for money, use MT Skips, as they say "You fill em we mt em"

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or 01384 24 09 56**



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Telephone: 07920 240956**

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MONDAY

NEW GROUP

Rowley Regis
Dudley Golf Club, Turners Hill
From 28th December, 7 pm
Tel Mary: 07702 237885

Sedgley
Cotwall End School
Cotwall End Road 7pm
Tel Gareth: 07517 675787

Wollaston
The Ridge Primary School
Gregory Road 7pm
Tel Laura: 07999 521993

Wordsley
Richardson Hall
Lawnswood Road 5pm & 7pm
Tel Ian: 07970 147592

Halesowen
Townsend Social Club
Stourbridge Road 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Lorraine: 07936 217340

Netherton
Cole Street Methodist Church
Cole Street 5.30pm and 7pm
Tel Heather: 07729 105659

Dudley Wood
Dudley Wood Methodist Church
Quarry Road 9.30am
Tel Lisa: 07986 673899

Quarry Bank
Thorns Primary School
Thorns Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Lisa: 07986 673899

Halesowen
Halesbury School
Feldon Lane 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Dawn: 07959 010175

TUESDAY

New Group

Cradley
Cradley Sports & Social Club
Colley Lane
from 5th January 7.30pm
Tel: Stacey: 07411 486694

Norton
Gignill Primary School, The Broadway 7.00pm
Tel Kelly: 07857 244854

Gornal Wood
Himley Road Methodist Church Himley Road
(Large Car Park at rear via chapel walk
Tel Becki: 07986 407934

Wordsley
Richardson Hall
Lawnswood Road 10am
Tel Ian: 07970147592

Woodsetton
Bramford Primary School
Park Road 6.00pm and 7.45pm
Tel Louise: 07967 624573

Gornal
Zoar Methodist Church
Abbey Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Sue: 01384 211425

Wollaston
St James C of E Primary School
Kingsway 7pm
Tel Jo: 07725 987340

Netherton
Cole Street Methodist Church
Cole Street 9.30am
Tel Heather: 07729 105659

Halesowen
Halesbury School
Feldon Lane 7.00pm
Tel Dawn: 07859 010175

Rowley Regis
Rowley Regis Disability Centre
26 Rowley Village 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Kenton: 07982 408088

Dudley (Wrensnest)
Wrensnest Community Centre
Summer Road 10am
Tel Louise: 07967 624573

Hasbury
Christian Fellowship
Albert Road 9.30am and 11.30am
Tel Michaela: 07901 583236

Halesowen
Lutley Community Centre
Brook Willow Road 5.30pm
and 7.30pm
Tel Michaela: 07901 583236

Pedmore
Hobgreen Primary School
Pedmore Fields 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Paula: 07846 847068

Norton

The Scout Hut
Kempton Way off Heath Farm Road 9.30am
Tel Caroline: 01562 888315

Amblecote

Peters Hill Primary School
Peters Hill Road 6pm and 7.30pm
Tel Lynne: 01384 455427

Bromley / Kingswinford
Dingle Community Centre
Madeley Road 5 pm & 7 pm
Tel Diane: 07974 657589

WEDNESDAY

NEW GROUP

Cradley
Wilson Hall, Cradley Labour Club, Colley Gate
From 6th January 2016, 5.30pm & 7.30 pm
Tel Stacey: 07411 486694

NEW GROUP

Old Hill
Holy Trinity Church, Halesowen Road
From 30th December, 9.15 am
Tel Sarah: 07815 071982

Kingswinford

British Legion
Summerhill Road 3.30pm
5pm and 6.30pm
Tel Ann: 07787 186259

Brockmoor

Brockmoor Community Centre
Pensnett Road 9.30am and 11.30am
Tel Ian: 01384 827999

Kinner

Brindley Heath Junior School
Enville Road 7pm
Tel John: 01384 423616

Amblecote

Amblecote Primary School
School Drive 5.30pm and 7.15pm
Tel Caroline: 01562 888315

Netherton

Hill Crest School and
Community College
Simms Lane 7pm
Tel Heather: 07729 105659

Tividale

St Michaels Church
Tividale Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Kenton: 07982 408088

Blackheath

Blackheath Central Methodist Church
High Street 10am 12noon
5pm and 7pm
Tel Ann: 07815 643963

Old Hill

Holy Trinity Church
Halesowen Road 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Sarah: 07815 071982

Halesowen

Stourbridge Road 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Lorraine: 07936 217340

Stourbridge / Oldswinford

Territorial Army
Swinford Road 9.30am
Tel Marie: 01384 893001

Stourbridge / Oldswinford

St Marys Church Hall
Rectory Road 4pm 5.30pm
and 7.30pm
Tel Kerry: 01384 833812

Brierley Hill

Withymoore Primary School
Gayfield Avenue 7pm
Tel Lynne: 01384 455427

Lower Gornal

The Straits Primary School
Milton Crescent 7pm
Tel Marion: 07887 594344

Upper Gornal

Upper Gornal Methodist Church
Spills Meadow off Kent Street 9.30am
Tel Lynn: 07963 539384

Dudley / Upper Gornal

Bishop Milner RC School
Burton Road 7pm
Tel Sue: 01902 882323

THURSDAY

Hagley

West One, 159 Worcester Road, 9.30am
Tel Charlotte: 07565 659357

Cradley Heath

Cradley Heath Liberal Club, Upper High Street
9.30am
Tel Kim: 07882 726067

Cradley Heath

Cradley Heath Liberal Club, Upper High Street
5.00pm and 7.00pm
Tel Kim: 07882 726067

Dudley

Central Methodist Church
Cross Street
5pm and 7pm
Tel Sarah: 07837 950797

Stourbridge

St Thomas Church Hall
Market Street 10am
Tel John: 01384 423616

Sedgley / Upper Gornal

St Chads and all Saints Social Club
High Holborn, Dudley Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Sue: 01902 882323

Brierley Hill

Nine Locks Community Centre
Hill Street 9.15am
Tel Jill: 01384 830929

Pensnett / Bromley Liberal Club

102 High Street (Corner of Swan Street) 4pm
and 6pm
Tel Jill: 01384 830929

Dudley

Central Methodist Church
Cross Street 10am 12noon
Tel Sue: 01384 211425

Hawbush Brierley Hill

Oakfield Centre
Brettell Lane 5pm and 7pm
Tel John: 01384 423616

Cradley

Netherend Centre
Mogul Lane 5.15pm and 7.15pm
Tel Amanda: 07862 274058

Halesowen

St Peters Church, Highlands Road
Lapal 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Elaine: 0121 5506414

Cradley Heath

Liberal Club, Upper High Street 9.30am
Tel Kim: 07882 726067

Hagley

Hagley Primary School
Park Road 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Paula: 0784 6847068

Stourbridge

Greenfield Primary School
Hill Street 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Marie: 01384 893001

FRIDAY

NEW GROUP

Sedgley

Sedgley Community Centre, Ladies Walk
(Access via the Priory) 9.30 am
From 8th January
Tel Gareth: 07517 675787

CHANGE OF VENUE

Halesowen

Combow Hall, 10 Hagley Street, 8 am & 10 am
Tel Charlotte: 07565 659357

Stourbridge

The Bonded Warehouse
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And leading the pack will be this year's Glitter Ball winner Jay McGuiness – one fifth of the globally successful band, The Wanted.

He will be partnered again by professional Aliona Vilani who recently announced that she is quitting the BBC TV show.

The modest Jay, who wowed from week one of the series, said: "I'm used to performing in front of massive crowds when touring with The Wanted, but performing with Aliona on the Strictly Live Tour will be a totally different experience."

"I loved my time on the TV series, but the idea of being back out in front of live arena audiences is something I'm very much looking forward to."

Favourite

Other celebrities booked in for the three-day Birmingham run from January 22-24 are Helen George, best known for her role of nurse Trixie Franklin in the multi-award winning BBC series *Call the Midwife*. She will be partnered by Aljaz Skorjanec.

Helen says: "I had a brilliant time on Strictly, so I'm very excited to continue my journey and have the chance to show off some of my favourite dances to audiences on the UK Tour."

"I'm sure that it'll be amazing to dance in front of huge arena audiences with Aljaz."

"I'm very much looking forward to the audience helping me feel at home on the dance floor each night."

Jay and Helen join Frankie Bridge from *The Saturdays*, actress Georgia May Foote from *Coronation Street*, who reached this year's final, partnered by new boy Giovanni Pernice, celebrity chef Ainsley Harriott and TV presenter Anita Rani, again teamed with the other dancer Gleb Savchenko.



Jay McGuiness is lifted in the air by fellow celebrities and dancers after winning the Strictly final



Dainty Georgia May Foote, reached this year's final

Frankie will be dancing with favourite Kevin Clifton, whose sister Karen will join the tour for the professional dances and group numbers, and Ainsley will be teamed with Natalie Lowe.

They will be joining the 2016 tour host Mel Giedroyc, together with judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood, who also directs the tour, and Bruno Tonioli.

Also appearing in this year's tour is previous contestant *EastEnders* star Jake Wood

who will be partnering Janette Manrara. Jake has been a part of some of the most memorable storylines on the soap for the past decade, performing the role of Max Branning.

He impressed the judges and TV audiences alike with his slick dance moves on last year's BBC One series of *Strictly Come Dancing*, and now he has the chance to show off his skills to arena audiences on the tour.

Jake says: "I really enjoyed my time on Strictly last year but couldn't do the tour due

to *EastEnders*' filming commitments, so it's great to get the chance to throw myself into the whole experience again as part of the 2016 Strictly tour."

"I'm so pleased that Frankie is doing the tour as well so we can enjoy reliving it all again together and I'm very happy that I'm being reunited with Janette."

"I can't wait to relive some of my favourite dances in arenas across the country!"

The tour starts in Birmingham on Friday,

January 22 with an evening performance at 7.30pm, Saturday at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, and Sunday at 1.30pm and 6.30pm.

Tickets are on sale from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

The tickets are priced at £73.83, £51.33, £40.08 (includes admin fees + 70p facility fee) + £2.55 fulfilment fee.

For more information and dates of the other tour venues visit www.strictlycomedianglive.com

star★extraTRAVEL

Crime Museum Uncovered Exhibition

Take a glimpse into some of history's most notorious crimes on this unusual two-day break.

For over 140 years the Metropolitan Police have seized items linked to criminal cases, forming a collection that was previously only accessible to police professionals and their guests.

Now, for the first time in history, some of these never-before-seen artefacts will go on public display at the museum of London.

From Jack the Ripper and the Great Train Robbery, to the Millennium Dome diamond heist and the Glasgow airport terrorist attack, *Crime Scene Uncovered* reveals the human stories behind the actions, and gives an insight into how such crimes were solved along with the advances in detection and criminal justice.

Among the many items on display, highlights include: memoirs of Donald Swanson, the senior officer on the Jack the Ripper investigation in the late 1800s; masks used by the Stratton brothers, the first criminals to be convicted based on fingerprint evidence; personal possessions of Ronnie Biggs, the Kray twins and other criminals, plus early counterfeiting and forgery implements.

The break also includes a visit to the Household Cavalry Museum, located in Horse Guards, for a behind-the-scenes look at the work that goes into the ceremonial and armoured reconnaissance role of The Queen's mounted bodyguard.



FROM £119

**Two days
departing March 5**

PRICE INCLUDES:

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- Entrance to the Household Cavalry Museum
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CHOICE



Boy George
The Voice UK (BBC1, 7.30pm)
New series. The BBC's singing contest returns, with Paloma Faith and Boy George fill the two chairs left vacant following Tom Jones' departure, and Rita Ora's defection to The X Factor last year. Veteran coaches Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson return to take their place on the panel, along with presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. The contest gets under way with the first of seven traditional 'blind auditions' stages, in which the four coaches must select their teams by assessing their vocal ability alone. Among the auditionees are a punk fan whose twist on a pop classic melts hearts on the panel, and a self-aware fishmonger whose performance includes plenty of piscine-themed puns to lighten the mood.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Athletics. Coverage of the Great Edinburgh Cross Country from Holyrood Park. **2.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the opening men's semi-final. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Now You See It. **5.30** BBC News.
6.00 Regional Programme.
6.10 Celebrity Mastermind. CBeebies presenter Katy Ashworth, actor Thomas Turgoose, former jockey Mick Fitzgerald, and radio presenter Shelagh Fogarty take to the black chair. Last in the series.
6.40 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present an FA Cup version of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz.
7.30 The Voice UK. New series. The BBC's flagship singing contest returns, with Paloma Faith and Boy George fill the two spinning chairs left vacant following Tom Jones' departure, and Rita Ora's defection to The X Factor last year. Veteran coaches Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson return to take their place on the panel, along with presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. The contest gets under way with the first of seven traditional 'blind auditions' stages, in which the four coaches must select their teams by assessing their vocal ability alone. Among the auditionees are a punk fan whose twist on a pop classic melts hearts on the panel, and a self-aware fishmonger whose performance includes plenty of piscine-themed puns to lighten the mood.
9.05 Casualty. Dixie steps in to save Nikki's family from feeling the full force of her wrath, and Cal decides not to tell a troubled Ethan what he has learned about his origins.
9.55 The National Lottery Live.
10.05 BBC News: Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Gary Lineker presents action from the third-round fixtures, including Eastleigh v Bolton Wanderers; National Lottery Update.
12.00 Film: The Peacemaker. (1997)
1.55 Film: Halloween: Resurrection. (2002) **3.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) **7.00 Film:** Jubal. (1956) **8.40 Film:** The Importance of Being Earnest. (1952)
10.10 Animal Park. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **1.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** For What It's Worth. (R) **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships.
6.00 Flog It! Paul Martin visits Loughborough's Town Hall and discovers the area's link with the popular Ladybird books. Valuable items up for auction include a concertina and a chocolate cup. (R)
6.30 World's Sneakiest Animals. Animals that use deceptive tactics to find food, from the manipulative mantis that looks like a flower to sea otters which demand ransoms after kidnapping each other's pups. (R)
7.30 Victorian Bakers. Four bakers experience what their profession was like during the Victorian era, working from a rural bake house kitted out exactly as it would have been in the 1830s. (R)
8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and Wilson decide to recruit women into the platoon to take care of the less demanding tasks, but the captain loses his heart to an attractive widow. (R)
9.00 Live at the Apollo. The stand-up show returns with Alan Carr hosting from London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing and introducing guests Francesca Martinez and Nish Kumar. (R)
9.45 Insert Name Here. Comedy panel game in which Sue Perkins asks teams to decide who is the best of the many people who share a particular name. With Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe. (R)
10.15 50 XL. Carol Jay, Dermot O'Leary and Phil Jupitus compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies.
11.00 Dragons' Den. A former contestant makes a second attempt to impress the panel, and a former figure skater fails to inspire much confidence in Peter Jones. (R)
12.00 Darts: BDO World Championships.
12.50 Film: Genghis Khan. (1965) **2.55 Film:** Captain Apache. (1971) **4.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bear: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.30** The Chase. (R) **3.30** Doc Martin. (R) **4.30** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **5.00** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)
6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.15 ITV News: Weather.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates more comical home videos, including a cat attacking a drone, and a pensioner who left a trail of destruction through a supermarket.
7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the third heat, as competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge.
8.00 Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness lines up another selection of potential sweethearts for his 30 single women. This time, singing software engineer Rhys from Merthyr Tydfil, semi-pro footballer Ellis from the Wirral, London-based personal trainer Ola and horse-rider Sam from Chester set out to impress the ladies, hoping they keep their lights on as a sign of approval.
9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. New series. The host returns with a new series for the new year, and is joined by actor Steve Carell, chef Gordon Ramsay and singer Ellie Goulding.
10.20 ITV News: Weather.
10.35 Film: Sex and the City 2. (2010) Premiere. Fashion-conscious writer Carrie escapes the strain of married life with a disaster-stricken trip to Abu Dhabi. Comedy sequel, with Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon and Kim Cattrall.
1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Ironman France. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. (R) **10.00 Film:** Von Ryan's Express. (1965) **12.20** The World's Most Famous Train. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Kempton Park and Liveconton. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.05 Channel 4 News.
6.35 Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help two sets of house-hunters looking for homes in Yorkshire. Kate works in international development and has spent years in Africa and elsewhere around the globe. Now she wants to put down roots and has chosen the picturesque Yorkshire Dales. In nearby Leeds, perfectionist couple Charley and Hayley have spent nine months trying to clinch a deal on their first home, terrified of making the wrong decision. Can Kirstie and Phil help them both find what they're looking for? (R)
7.30 Britain's Wildest Weather 2015. Documentary featuring footage of unusual weather conditions in the past year shot by members of the public, including freak hailstorms, 113mph winds, deadly lightning strikes and even a tornado. The programme includes interviews with those involved, including tanker pilots, rescue teams, weather watchers and hikers. (R)
9.00 Film: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. (2013) Premiere. Katniss Everdeen's victory in a televised death match makes her a focus for revolution against the totalitarian nation she lives in. The rulers of the regime plot to crush dissent with a new series of games, in which past champions battle it out. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Jennifer Lawrence.
11.50 Film: The Day the Earth Stood Still. (2008) An alien is sent to Earth on a mission to decide if the human race should be wiped out or allowed to continue existing. Sci-fi remake, with Keanu Reeves.
1.45 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.50** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **12.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **1.25** Film: Columbus: How to Dial a Murder. (1978) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.00** Film: Columbus: Make Me a Perfect Murder. (1978) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)
6.00 5 News Weekend.
6.05 World War II in Colour. This edition focuses on the effectiveness of the German blitzkrieg – intense military campaigns that aimed to bring about a swift victory using tanks supported by aircraft and infantry. This new type of warfare took the Allies by surprise and gave Hitler the opportunity to seize Poland and France. Actor Robert Powell narrates the story of the global conflict, told using colourised archive footage, state-of-the-art terrain mapping and cutting-edge computer graphics, and based on government papers and previously classified files. (R)
7.05 World War II: Battlefield Recovery. New series. Excavation experts retrieve Second World War relics from the war-zones of the Eastern Front, telling the stories of fallen soldiers by examining their remains.
8.00 Chasing Monsters. New series. Documentary series which seeks out colossal underwater creatures in the most remote corners of the planet, beginning with the monster shark.
9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The first eviction from the housemates' point of view, and the rest of the goings-on as the new showbiz pals continue to get along – or not, the case may be.
10.00 Jason Manford Live at the Manchester Apollo. The comedian performs before his home-town audience during his 2009 tour, offering his thoughts on the rules of driving and the proper way to use a urinal. (R)
11.15 Lip Sync Battle: David Walliams v Alesha Dixon. David Walliams and Alesha Dixon go head to head. (R)
11.45 Tattoo Disasters UK.
12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.05** Film: Shrek the Third (2007) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.15** Family Guy **1.25** American Dad! **1.45** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **2.30** Impractical Jokers **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Stories from the Dark Earth: Meet the Ancestors Revisited **8.00** Castles – Britain's Fortified History **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.45** Blondie: One Way or Another **11.55** Blondie @ Glastonbury **12.50** Top of the Pops: The Story of 1981 **1.50** Top of the Pops: 1991 Bin Hits **2.50** Synth Britannia at the BBC **3.50** Close
ITV2
11.05 Ninja Warrior UK **1.15** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.40** Film: The Lake House (2006) **3.45** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.45** Film: Jurassic Park (1993) **8.10** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **9.15** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.20** Film: The Fast and the Furious (2001) **12.25** FHM: The Last of the Lads' Mags **1.25** Safeworld **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.45 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **2.00** A Touch of Frost **4.00** Film: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo (1990) **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **11.55** Marchlands **1.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **1.55** Man About the House **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
12.05 Film: Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **3.10** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00** Film: Pale Rider (1985) **11.25** Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **2.05** Legacy – The 2015 Rugby World Cup **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.20 Hollyoaks Does Come Dine with Me **1.55** Film: Space Chimps (2008) **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf. **11.00** Gogglebox **12.35** The Inbetweeners **1.45** The IT Crowd **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Made in Chelsea: End of Season Party **4.20** Revenge
Film4
11.00 Gideon of Scotland Yard (1958) **1.00** The Family Stone (2005) **3.05** Carry On Dick (1974) **4.55** Inkheart (2008) **7.00** Terminal Velocity (1994) **9.00** The Grey (2011) **11.15** Dog Soldiers (2002) **1.20** Joy Ride (2001) **3.20** Close

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CHOICE



Kieran Bew

Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands (ITV, 7pm)
The thanes of the various tribes come together in the Shieldlands to elect their new leader, but the gathering is disrupted when a mysterious murderer strikes. Kieran Bew, Joanne Whalley, William Hurt, David Harewood, Gisli Orn Gardarsson, Ed Speleers, David Ajala, Ian Puleston-Davies, Laura Donnelly and Lolita Chakrabarti star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Songs of Praise. **1.50** For What It's Worth. (R) **2.35** Great Barrier Reef with David Attenborough. (R) **3.35** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Tottenham Hotspur v Leicester City (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.05** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** Countryfile. Matt Baker learns about oilseed rape farming in Herefordshire, and helps chef Jean-Christophe Novelli whip up a feast using the healthy produce. Ellie Harrison goes in search of wildlife in Heartwood Forest, chef Tony Singh visits Loch Awe in the Western Isles of Scotland, Tom Heap reports on cuts to rural public transport, and Adam Henson meets the winner of last year's Countryfile Farming Hero award before announcing this year's nominees. **7.30** Still Open All Hours. Granville arranges a double-date with Madge and Mavis for himself and Gastric – but has to smarten his friend up first. Mrs Featherstone has her eye on a potential new husband. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second of two programmes from Bowood House, Wiltshire, where the experts examine a box engraved with a secret code and a Russian cigarette case. **9.00** War & Peace. Andrei and Nikolai prepare to go into battle with the French, but may be walking into a trap. Back at home, Pierre is finding married life with Helene harder than expected. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the weekend's concluding third-round fixtures, including Oxford United v Swansea City, Carlisle United v Yeovil Town and Tottenham Hotspur v Leicester City. **11.25** Film: Signs. (2002) M Night Shyamalan's sci-fi thriller, starring Mel Gibson and Joaquin Phoenix. **1.05** Snooker: The Masters – Extra. **3.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: City Beneath the Sea. (1970) Sci-fi adventure, starring Stuart Whitman. **8.00** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **9.00** Countryfile Compilation: Winter Wildlife. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Shaun Murphy v Mark Allen. **5.00** Ski Sunday. **5.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the men's final. **8.00** Dragons' Den. Entrepreneurs pitch their money-making ideas to a panel of self-made millionaires, who are prepared to invest their company's money in the scheme if they think it could work. **9.00** My Mediterranean with Adrian Chiles. Part two of two. Adrian gets in touch with his Catholic roots in Rome, riding a Vespa around the city with a priest and joining a crowd come to see the Pope in St Peter's Square. Adrian also attends his first confession in eight years with an 80-year-old cardinal, learns about converting to Judaism while observing the Sabbath, helps a group of nuns in the kitchen, and visits a Catholic school where most of the pupils are Muslims. **10.00** A Life on Screen – Stephen Fry. In this documentary, Stephen Fry tells the story behind his success, with contributions from Michael Sheen, Hugh Laurie and Alan Davies. (R) **11.00** Snooker: The Masters. Stuart Bingham v Ding Junhui. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights of the first-round match on day one at Alexandra Palace, London, which was played over the best of 11 frames. **11.50** Film: Disconnect. (2012) The complex lives of several strangers are made far more problematic by the technology they use to communicate. Ensemble drama, starring Jason Bateman and Hope Davis. **1.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile Compilation: Winter Wildlife. Ellie Harrison reports from the Cotswold Water Park, where she helps with maintenance. Plus, a look back at the most memorable moments from the series featuring winter wildlife. (R) **2.35** HOLBY City. While battling for a research grant at an outdoor pursuit centre, Arthur tries to win Morven's affections. (R) **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls' Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News: Weather. **12.50** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.50** Ninjabur Warrior UK. (R) **2.55** Film: Thunderball. (1965) James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery. **5.30** Regional Programme : Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera. Part one of two. Alastair Stewart presents extraordinary eyewitness footage filmed by members of the public. **7.00** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. A murderer is on the loose as tribal thanes gather to elect their new leader, and it falls to Beowulf to identify the culprit before he has a chance to kill again. **8.00** Endeavour. A mysterious fire that killed an artist with connections to political activists leaves the police baffled, while Bright finds himself short-staffed when a stomach bug puts most of his men on sick leave. The situation becomes more serious when a housewife dies of the same condition. Endeavour investigates a family-run supermarket, believing the infection may have stemmed from their stock being deliberately contaminated, and discovers dark secrets that may have a connection to the unexplained blaze. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure. The actress takes in the varied sights of Mongolia during the second leg of her journey, visiting the nation's capital – Ulan Bator – and meeting renowned Mongolian throat-singers. (R) **11.15** Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the latest fixtures. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** Film: 17 Again. (2009) Comedy, starring Matthew Perry and Zac Efron. **6.00** Channel 4 News. **6.20** Film: Ice Age: Continental Drift. (2012) A cataclysm leaves prehistoric animals Manny, Sid and Diego lost at sea on a drifting iceberg. They try to find a way to return home, embarking on a journey that leads to an encounter with a ferocious band of piratical creatures. Animated comedy sequel, with the voices of Ray Romano and John Leguizamo. **8.00** Walking the Himalayas. Levison Wood is reunited with a man who saved his life and joins pilgrims on their way to India's holiest city, where he meets a monk who claims to have gained special powers from eating human flesh. Levison then travels into Nepal, encountering dangerous wildlife and having to flee a town in the middle of the night when moonson rains cause flooding. **9.00** Deutschland 83. Moritz completes another mission and begins to enjoy his new life in the West. When a NATO meeting is held to discuss the deployment of missiles, Tischbein gives the young infiltrator a new assignment – to break into a general's hotel room and steal a top secret security report. In German. **10.00** The 80s: Ten Years That Changed Britain. A look back at British society and pop culture in the 1980s, examining alternative comedy, football hooliganism and the divisive government of Margaret Thatcher. **11.30** Film: Footloose. (1984) A rebellious student from the city clashes with a preacher from a small religious community, who believes dancing is immoral. Drama, with Kevin Bacon. **1.25** SuperScrimpers: Winter Survival Tips. (R) **2.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Gadget Man. (R) **5.00** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.10** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Tock. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Footbarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** Tolly's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **10.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **11.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **12.50** Film: Over Her Dead Body. (2008) Supernatural romantic comedy, starring Eva Longoria and Paul Rudd. **2.35** Film: The First Wives Club. (1996) Revenge comedy, starring Goldie Hawn, Betty Midler and Diane Keaton. **4.35** Film: Herbie: Fully Loaded. (2005) Disney comedy sequel, starring Lindsay Lohan and Michael Keaton. **6.35** 5 News Weekend. **6.40** Film: Star Trek: Generations. (1994) USS Enterprise Captain Jean-Luc Picard must stop a deranged genius obsessed with gaining access to a mysterious energy source – regardless of the threat to entire civilisations that lie in his path. Help arrives from an unlikely quarter – his supposedly long dead predecessor Captain James T. Kirk. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Patrick Stewart, William Shatner, Malcolm McDowell and Whoopi Goldberg. **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother. The latest from the star-studded compound, as the housemates – minus the one unceremoniously booting out as a result of Frida's early eviction – begin their second weekend together. **10.00** The Bafta Britannia Awards 2015. Jack Whitehall hosts the LA-based ceremony recognising outstanding film and TV talent, with Meryl Streep, Sam Mendes and Harrison Ford among the honorees. **11.55** Film: The River Wild. (1994) A white-water rafting expert on holiday with her family is forced to help two fugitives make an escape down a raging river. Action thriller, starring Meryl Streep. **1.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Inside the World's Most Dangerous Prison. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.20** The Voice UK **9.00** Film: Puss in Boots (2011) **10.20** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.35** Russell Howard's Good News **1.05** Siblings **1.35** I Know What You Weighed Last Summer **2.35** Film: Once (2006) **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 India's Frontier Railways **8.00** Empire of the Tsars: Romanov Russia with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Darcy Bussell's Looking for Audrey **10.00** Goya Exposed with Jake Chapman **10.30** Florence: Gypsy Soul **11.30** Storyville: The Queen of Versailles **1.00** Genesis: Together & Apart **2.30** The Good Old Days
ITV2
12.55 Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.00** Catchphrase **2.45** Film: Bean (1997) **4.30** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **7.00** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **9.00** Film: Casino Royale (2006) **11.55** Film: The Last of the Lads' Mags **12.50** Reality Bites **1.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.00** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.25** Teleshopping
ITV3
11.50 Film: Rest in Peace. Mrs Columbo (1990) **1.50** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** The Cruise Ship **9.00** Bettie Midler: One Night Only **10.00** Woylife **11.15** Film: Private Benjamin (1980) **1.25** Film: The Pianist (2002) **3.55** Heartbeat
ITV4
11.10 The Classic Car Show **12.10** Kojak **3.05** Film: Captain Newman, M.D. (1964) **5.45** Film: Tobruk (1967) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Keeper (2009) **11.05** Film: Assassins (1995) **1.45** Nitro Circus **2.05** The Professionals **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Film: Space Chimps 2: Zartog Strikes Back (2010) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory **2.30** The Big Bang Theory: Superheroes **6.30** Film: Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** The IT Crowd **1.20** Gogglebox **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.55** Rules of Engagement **3.20** Hollywoods
Film4
11.00 My Darling Clementine (1946) **1.00** August Rush (2007) **3.15** Biggles (1986) **5.05** Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **7.00** Run Fat Boy Run (2007) **9.00** Side Effects (2013) **11.10** Haywire (2011) **1.00** Wall Street (1987)

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TRAVEL

The Rolling Stones – Exhibitionism

Exhibitionism is the first international exhibition charting the story of The Rolling Stones and will take over two entire floors of the prestigious Saatchi Gallery, next summer.

Nine thematic galleries, over 500 original artefacts, and striking cinematic and interactive technologies will lead visitors through the band's fascinating 50+ year history.

It will feature original stage designs, rare guitars and instruments, iconic costumes, unseen video clips, audio tracks, personal diaries and album cover artwork.

There will also be collaborations and work by an array of artists, designers, musicians and writers – from Andy Warhol, Shepard Fairey, Alexander McQueen and Ossie Clark and Martin Scorsese.

Also enjoy some free time in London for shopping or sightseeing in the theatre district where the shops, market stalls and eateries of Covent Garden are just a short walk away, and the famous stores on Oxford Street and Regent Street are close by too.

FROM £149.⁹⁵

Two days departing
Apr 16, May 14, Jun 18,
Jul 23 and Aug 20 2016

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission ticket to 'Exhibitionism - The Rolling Stones' at the Saatchi Gallery
- Free time in London
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Left to Die, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A woman devotes herself to freeing her wrongfully convicted mother from a brutal Ecuador prison. Fact-based drama, starring Barbara Hershey. (2012)

TUESDAY
A Simple Plan, BBC1, 11.40pm
 Two brothers and a friend stumble on a fortune in unmarked small dollar bills in the wreckage of a plane and decide to squirrel it away for themselves. However, the strain of keeping the cache secret takes its toll as guilt, paranoia and greed change their relationship for ever. Sam Raimi's psychological thriller, starring Bill Paxton. (1998)

WEDNESDAY
Too Late to Say Goodbye, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A woman discovers her husband is having an affair and confides in a mystery man she meets on the internet. When her spouse's lover dies under suspicious circumstances, she fears he may have murdered her – or that her online friend is not as trustworthy as he appears. Drama, starring Stefanie von Pfetten, Rob Lowe and Yannick Bisson. (2009)



Eagle Eye, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

THURSDAY
Final Recourse, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A wealthy businesswoman spirals into substance abuse as a way of dealing with a tragedy, and, in the haze of a drunken stupor, she is kidnapped. Held in a makeshift prison by her captors, she goes through the agony of drug and alcohol withdrawal, before managing to escape and return home to her family. It's only then, however, that she realises someone close to home may have been behind her abduction. Thriller, starring Teri Polo and Chazz Palminteri. (2013)

FRIDAY
Eagle Eye, BBC1, 11.55pm
 Two strangers find themselves on the run from the authorities when they receive mysterious phone calls informing them their lives are in danger. They are forced to follow the instructions of a woman who is tracking their every move, while at the same time trying to discover who is behind the conspiracy. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf. (2008)

Derren Pushes things on to another level

Did your parents ask the question: "If they told you to jump off a roof, would you?"

Well, Derren Brown is putting that notion to the test this evening (sort of), as he returns to TV with arguably his most his most ambitious experiment to date – The Push.

But rather than directly instruct someone to jump from a great height, in this brand-new one-off psychological experiment, the multi award-winning illusionist is aiming to persuade an unwitting member of the public to push another person off a roof, seemingly to their death.

According to Brown, this illusion will investigate the powers of social compliance and how authority, peer pressure or ideology can be used to make people carry out horrific acts.

Brown believes that when confronted with authority, our natural instinct is to unflinchingly obey.

"The world of social compliance is a deeply fascinating one and hopefully we will take the viewer on a journey that will be disturbing and entertaining in equal measure," he says.

His subject is Chris Kingston, a 29-year-old member of the public who is unaware he's being filmed or manipulated at a distance, and the setting is the gala launch night of a fictitious new charity called Push.

Since the first broadcast of his first TV show Derren Brown: Mind Control in 2000, Brown has become increasingly well known.

His touring shows, as well as his TV specials often have fans eager with anticipation about what the 44-year-old is going to do next, and he has just finished a nationwide tour of his latest show Miracle in which he looked at the work of Christian evangelicals and their supposed healing powers.

The master entertainer is almost unrecognisable from the spiky haired, goatee-bearded magician sort of a decade years ago.

But he looks back on his growing back catalogue of work with great pride, and two shows in particular stand out for him:

"Apocalypse and Hero At 30,000 Ft," he says.

"The fun of setting up and executing

what were essentially huge practical jokes, and the impact the shows made on their protagonists' lives, made them my personal favourites.

"I've remained close to both of the guys involved and they continue to do well."

This show should follow along similar lines, but whether or not Brown will still be on friendly terms with Kingston after basically duping him into an act of attempted murder this evening, remains to be seen.

The trickster's power to persuade and enthrall is still as strong as ever, but he insists there is nothing malicious about anything that he does.

"I am often dishonest in my techniques but I'm always honest about my dishonesty," he states.

One thing's for sure, after an hour watching him tonight you will once again be sat perplexed, asking that age-old Brown question: "How has he done that?"

So sit back, take a deep breath, and try to get your grey matter around how he has pulled off his latest act of Derren-do.



Derren Brown: Pushed To The Edge, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
How To Lose Weight Well Channel 4, 8pm

New series. In Britain, around 11 million people – almost one in six of the population – are on some form of diet; many in a bid to slim down for a particular event. In this programme, Dr Xand van Tulleken and dietician Hala El-Shafie help six people go on the most hyped and written about diets on the market, with the volunteers divided into Crashers on short-term regimens, Shape Shifters on six-week programmes, and Life Changers on four-month plans. In the first episode, Katie and Rachael want to slim down before a weekend getaway, and have just 10 days to do so.

TUESDAY
Stargazing 2016 BBC2, 9pm

Just under a month ago, Professor Brian Cox and the ever-inquisitive Dara O Brain headed up the BBC's coverage of Tim Peake's journey to the International Space Station. Now they're back, and although a new run of Stargazing Live might not be quite as nail-biting, it remains hugely entertaining for astronomers and plucky amateurs alike. Here's hoping they get plenty of clear skies when they take up residence at Jodrell Bank Observatory in

Cheshire for the next three nights. Stay tuned when the programme finishes at 10pm for spin-off show Stargazing: Back to Earth, in which the duo lead a discussion with experts and the studio audience about all things astronomical.

WEDNESDAY
Mary Portas: Secret Shopper Channel 4, 8pm

When it comes to getting the lowdown on Britain's high street, nobody does it better than Mary Portas. Last week, she began a new run of this series, in which she works with some of our best-known brands, as well as more obscure firms, to give shoppers the kind of service they deserve. This time around, Portas heads off to Kent, where hair salon Shobie and Co is in trouble thanks to an ever-widening rift between the staff and the business's owners. This regularly results in foul-mouthed rants on the shop floor, which is driving customers away. It's Portas' job to get everyone singing from the same hymn sheet, although that could be easier said than done. However, if she doesn't succeed, it's likely that Shobie and Co will be no more.

THURSDAY
Birds of a Feather ITV, 8.30pm

When the first episode of this sitcom aired all the way back in 1989, it saw Tracey discovering that her husband Darryl owed his fortune to his sideline as an armed robber rather than his day job building conservatories. So

somehow it seems strangely fitting that this week, Tracey gets home from her ex's funeral to discover the house has been burgled. However, the family don't have long to reflect on the irony of the situation, as they decide to track down their possessions instead.

It's a quest that takes them to a snooker hall, a pawnbroker, and perhaps somewhat more unexpectedly, the infamous Theydon Boys drag club.

FRIDAY
That's So 1985 Channel 5, 8pm

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Birds of a Feather, Thursday, ITV, 8.30pm

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Ballroom & Latin

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New Adults Beginners Ballroom and Latin - 7.00pm

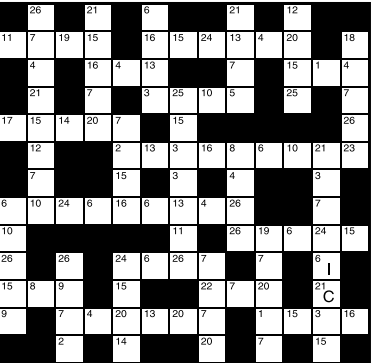
Adults Improvers Ballroom and Latin - 7.45pm

Just come along to the class, or for more info call 01902 897900 or visit www.ZigZagDance.co.uk

BRAIN GYM No.359

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

B	G	K	C	Y	Z	M	N	E	T	W	O	L
X	A	R	I	D	J	F	V	S	P	U	Q	H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

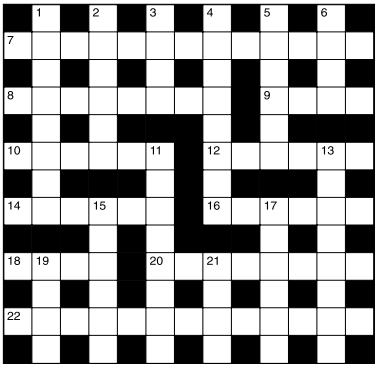
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- It enables one to follow the lines laid down (7,6)
- Professor? (8)
- They may be slow - wise, too (4)
- Animals at the wheel? (6)
- Likely to get agreeing (2,4)
- Afraid of such cadres (6)
- Sort of look from the batsman? (6)
- Where Thomas the bighead is buried (4)
- Time to jump? (4,4)
- Take court action, but don't expect it free (6,1,6)

Down

- The way to cite arrangement as exciting pity (8)
- Fish I get in position (6)
- A tree in the hand (4)
- Status as a candidate (8)
- Where pupils grow in our eyes (6)
- Transaction in wood? (4)
- They don't intend one to go bare-backed (8)
- It's as you were without small coins (2,6)
- Snub polish again (6)
- In company, waywardly conceals it by whatever means (6)
- A row in the making (4)
- Chief curved structure (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Diverse (13)
- Disdain (8)
- Inquires (4)
- Be there (6)
- Close tightly (6)
- Thrust (6)
- Pass (6)
- Annoying child (4)
- Dawn (4-4)
- Impartial (13)

Down

- Newsman (8)
- Alight (6)
- Shape (4)
- Feeler (8)
- Discount (6)
- Twilight (4)
- Frail (8)
- Patron (8)
- Decomposed (6)
- Admission (6)
- Incursion (4)
- Protection (4)

Sudoku

5				4			7
3			2			1	8
	1	9			7	5	
			8	3			1
	2	1					8
7			5		6		9
	5	7		3		8	6
1	4				8		2
				5			3

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	3	9	5	6	2	4	8	1
2	4	5	7	1	8	3	6	9
8	6	1	4	3	7	5	2	9
6	2	4	1	8	7	5	9	3
9	5	8	3	4	6	2	1	7
1	7	3	2	5	9	6	4	8
3	9	6	8	7	5	1	2	4
4	8	2	6	3	1	9	7	5
5	1	7	9	2	4	8	3	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Snip; 8 Imposition; 9 Shortage; 10 Reap; 12 Swords; 14 Stolon; 15 Staves; 17 Better; 18 Then; 19 Derision; 3 Pier; 4 Spears; 5 Assess; 6 Start out; 7 Snap; 11 Above-board; 13 Ravenous; 16 Sudden; 17 Barrow; 18 Tame; 20 Sake. QUICK - Across: 1 Sway; 8 Ameliorate; 9 Economic; 10 Type; 12 Script; 14 Stress; 15 Paused; 17 Punish; 18 Etna; 19 Malapert; 21 Discretion; 22 Gate. Down: 2 Witchcraft; 3 Yawn; 4 Permit; 5 Piques; 6 Brethren; 7 Dene; 11 Postscript; 13 Instance; 16 Dampen; 17 Pallid; 18 Ends; 20 Pang.

Quiz

- Of which planet is Rhea is satellite?
- Where, precisely, is the Sargasso Sea?
- In which American state is the city of Yonkers?
- What sort of a bird is a wryneck?
- How did British soldier Orde Wingate die?
- What is the fifth note of a musical scale?
- What is scrimshaw?
- Which architect designed the 1851 Crystal Palace?
- In Australian slang, what does 'the good oil' mean?
- What is a gibus?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Spain; 2 Wystan Hugh; 3 Cuba; 4 The person in charge of moving and setting up camera tracks and scenery; 5 Daedalus; 6 Skirt-like garment worn by Polynesians; 7 Leo; 8 1971; 9 Orchid; 10 Terence Rattigan.
Niner: DIPLOMATS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1234 gives a girl's name,
98962 gives another girl's name,
79543 gives a boy's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Saturday Night Theatre from £169.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels (hotel supplements may apply) and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days
Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £149.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Problems faced by the buyer and seller



Bad communication – either not calling enough, or chasing too much: 21 per cent
 Buyer or seller felt as if the agent didn't care about them: 14 per cent
 Not being informed about known property faults, e.g. – structural issues, damp, etc: 13 per cent
 Making promises they could not keep: 11 per cent
 Being too pressurising: 10 per cent
 Over exaggerating a property description: 10 per cent
 Over pricing a property that a buyer is interested in: nine per cent
 Feeling as if the agent was dishonest: nine per cent
 The agent not having all the information the buyer or seller needed e.g. service charges, council tax: eight per cent
 Not being able to contact the agent: eight per cent
 Not putting the right offers to vendors: six per cent
 Agents forgetting who the buyer or seller was (too many buyers or sellers on the agents' books at one time): six per cent

Estate agents you can trust

For most of us buying or selling a home is the most expensive – and stressful – thing we will ever do.

Some research has even found people claiming it was more painful that being made redundant, getting divorced or even going bankrupt.

So it is absolutely vital to make the right choice when deciding whether to use a traditional estate agent, an online house selling website, one of the new 'hybrid' agents or even just going it alone.

And if you decide to use an estate agent, it is equally vital to make sure you choose the right one for you.

The best way to be reassured that you are putting yourself in good hands is to look out for the NAEA logo.

The National Association of Estate Agents is the UK's leading professional body for estate agency personnel, being part of a group representing 13,000 members who practice across all aspects of property services both in the UK and overseas.

These include residential and commercial sales and lettings, property management, business transfer, auctioneering and land. The NAEA is also a sister organisation to the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA).

NAEA is dedicated to the goal of professionalism within all aspects of property, estate agency and land. Its aim is to reassure the general public that by appointing an NAEA member to represent them they will receive in return the highest level of integrity and service for all property matters. Both NAEA and ARLA



members are bound by a vigorously enforced Code of Practice and adhere to professional Rules of Conduct. Failure to do so can result in heavy financial penalties and possible expulsion from the associations.

With house prices back on the up, largely because demand for homes currently far outweighs the supply, the property market has become even more of a minefield than in previous years.

Mark Hayward, managing director at the National Association of Estate Agents, says: "In such a lively market, it's important that agents are delivering exceptional standards of service.

"Consumers need to ensure that they are looking for the NAEA logo in estate agents' windows, doors and on websites. NAEA agents integrate high quality and best practice services in to everything they do.

"They are regulated and adhere to a strict code of practice. Whilst problems can and do arise during the process of buying or selling a home, using a NAEA agent will put consumers' minds at ease that any issues can be dealt with in a professional and safe manner."

Research carried out by the association for its Look for the Logo campaign found nearly two thirds – 60 per cent – of home buyers and

sellers had faced problems with their estate agents over the last five years, but 39 per cent had not considered whether their agents were regulated or not. That meant their agent might not have been signed up to a code of conduct or have any regulatory body over seeing them. More than a third of those taking part in the survey (37 per cent) admitted that their problems could have been avoided if their agent was better regulated.

The biggest complaint from the UK's property market was the fact that their estate agent had bad communication skills – either not calling them back, or chasing them too much (21 per cent). A further one in seven (14 per cent) felt as though their agent didn't care about them. An additional 13 per cent claimed that their estate agent had not told them about known faults in properties they were looking at.

Mark Hayward said: "Buying a property is the biggest purchase and financial commitment of your life, and can be an overwhelming experience. It takes a lot of hard work and research to ensure you are ticking all the right boxes, and no doubt people come across many challenges along the way. An estate agent should really be there to help this process, not hinder, and therefore the choice of which agent to go with is an important one.

"With the extensive administrative tasks and processes involved in buying or selling a home, communication between agents and homeowners is essential. It's the estate agents' role to make these processes seem as pain-free and seamless as possible, which regulated agents endeavour to do."

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Three-bed semi is in a popular area

FOR sale at offers over £100,000 through Skitts with no chain, this three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Tudor Vale, Dudley, is in a quiet and popular location.

Having part double glazing, gas central heating and off road parking it has an entrance hall, a lounge with a timber fireplace and laminate flooring and a bay window, a kitchen with modern units, spot lighting and patio doors to the rear garden, three bedrooms (one with laminate flooring) and a bathroom with a white suite. There are also front and rear gardens with a shed.

For further information contact Skitts on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net website.



Characterful mid-terraced cottage priced at £224,950



A CHARACTERFUL mid-terraced cottage in Sugar Loaf Lane, Ismere, near Stourbridge, is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard with McCarneys at £224,950.

It has a breakfast/dining kitchen with a beamed ceiling, tiled flooring, a feature alcove and a refurbished multi-fuel burner and space for range cooker, a utility room a re-fitted and refurbished bathroom which is tiled and has a white suite and a white ladder-effect radiator, a characterful lounge with a refurbished multi-fuel burning stove, a rear inner hall and a porch. There is a first floor landing, bedroom one is en-suite with wardrobes, bedroom two has exposed wooden floorboards. There is a front garden, paved terrace, rear garden with brick shed.

Contact 01562 822244 or visit www.phipsandpritchard.co.uk website.



Traditional home has lots of features



THIS immaculately presented traditional semi-detached property is at Toys Lane, Halesowen.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £179,950.

With parking for several cars, private rear garden and gas central heating, it has French doors to a porch leading to an original wooden front door with a stained glass, entrance hall with storage, a lounge with a feature open fire, a dining room with French doors leading to a patio.

There is a kitchen with an integrated electric double oven, electric hob, integrated freezer, fridge, dishwasher and washing machine; a bedroom with fitted wardrobes and a bay window, two further bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



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Infiniti Q50 gets a makeover

By James Parker

The new 2016 Infiniti Q50 sports saloon is being launched with a number of performance and dynamic upgrades that deliver a more empowering and rewarding drive experience. The comprehensive updates include next-generation ride and handling technologies and all-new advanced turbocharged V6 powertrains.

Making its debut on an Infiniti is the company's second-generation Direct Adaptive Steering™, comprehensively modified from the ground-breaking first-generation system. The standard steering mode now offers advanced levels of steering feel and feedback – more akin to that of a conventional steering system.

The new Q50 also features Infiniti's Dynamic Digital Suspension (DDS) for the first time, which gives the car an optimal blend of ride comfort and class-leading response and agility.

For those drivers looking for a blend of dynamic settings tailored to their own particular requirements and tastes, the Q50's Drive Mode Selector (DMS) can be augmented with a 'Personal' mode, which permits a bespoke mix of engine, suspension and steering characteristics.

Five powertrain options are offered with the Infiniti Q50, and for the 2016 model these include an advanced, all-new 3.0-litre V6 twin-turbo gasoline engine with direct injection.

This new 'VR30' engine in Europe is avail-

able in only one state of tune: 400 hp – (300 hp also available for Middle East); developed to provide an ideal mix of drivability, efficiency and performance.

The Q50 was developed to showcase Infiniti's daring design, dynamic performance and class-leading technologies within the sports saloon segment. Now in its third year, Q50 global sales between January and October 2015 reached almost 50,000 cars, representing a 65 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2014.

A range of new and innovative ride and handling technologies deliver on the promise of the Q50's daring design, and install confidence in all driving conditions.

Infiniti Q50 models equipped with the new 3.0-litre V6 twin-turbo engine, or the hybrid powertrain, come available with the second-generation Infiniti Direct Adaptive Steering™, which has undergone significant re-tuning to greatly enhance steering feel and feedback.

The changes to DAS – the world's first digital steering system – have been made following extensive consultation with existing Q50 customers around the world and over 625,000 miles of testing.

For the new second generation Direct Adaptive Steering, engineers have optimized the control logic to improve feedback from the road.

2.0-litre petrol and 2.2-litre diesel models are equipped with a speed-sensitive hydraulic electronic rack-and-pinion power steering system as standard. This increases assistance at low speeds and reduces assistance for enhanced feel and response at higher speeds.

2016 Q50 Sport models with 3.0 twin turbo powertrain are upgraded with Dynamic Digital Suspension (DDS) for the first time, which offers enhanced ride comfort with class-leading response and agility.



The standard steering mode now offers advanced levels of steering feel and feedback

The shift from a comfort-biased ride to enhanced dynamic response can be made when the driver places the electronically adjustable shock absorbers in either Sport or Sport+ modes (adjusted via the Drive Mode Selector), providing firmer damping control for more agile handling. While in these modes, the suspension is constantly adjusting to provide ideal performance and a flat ride.

The hybrid powertrain is designed to put performance first, while bringing significant benefits for fuel efficiency.

All Q50 powertrains are matched to an advanced seven-speed electronically con-

trolled automatic transmission with manual shift mode and steering column-mounted magnesium paddle shifters.

Adaptive Shift Control enhances gear selection by using a lateral acceleration sensor to detect changes in the road, such as hills and turns. Sport mode allows the driver to select a more aggressive shift pattern with automatic up- and down-shifting at higher rpm. The combined effect is for any driver to enjoy quick, smooth shifts and gear choices that are appropriate to both the road and the desired driving style. The new Infiniti Q50 will go on sale in selected markets later in 2016.



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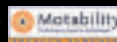
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Trip of lifetime with Vauxhall

Wolverhampton motorists Nick and Dawn Bohannan, recently completed the road trip of a lifetime in a new Vauxhall Cascada Elite.

Purchased from local Vauxhall retailer, Evans Halshaw Wolverhampton the Cascada Elite CDTI is the first Vauxhall the Bohannans have ever owned.

Finished in limited edition white, with full leather interior, and European maps on the built-in Sat Nav, the Cascada was designed with the help of the team at the dealership, so the Bohannans could experience the holiday of their dreams.

The couple travelled all the way from their home in Penn, down to Ports-

mouth then chased the sun further still all the way to Provence in the South of France. On the way they stopped off at beautiful attractions such as the Loire Valley, and even followed in the tyre treads of champions in a visit to Monaco and the famous Grand Prix track.

Nick said: "This trip was something my wife and I had been wanting to do for a while and finally decided that this was our year to do it! The team at the dealership were really helpful and made sure we got everything we needed."

"The continental sat nav made all the difference and gave us the freedom to go wherever we wanted. To top it off the car is incredible, very comfortable, roomy and economical; I'd highly recommend it!"

All in all the Bohannans and their

Cascada travelled just over 2,600 miles in two weeks and even that wasn't enough, as the pair are already planning their next road trip through Spain.

Ben Vale, dealer principal at Evans Halshaw Vauxhall Wolverhampton, said: "It's lovely that we were able to help Nick and Dawn fulfil their dream of a road trip holiday, I was confident that the Cascada would do them proud, so when they dropped in to tell us how fantastic their trip had been it was really heart-warming."

"It's a fantastic car and Nick and Dawn are a great example of how chatting through everything you want from a car with your sales leader can ensure we make the best recommendations for you."

"We wish them all the best on their next trip!"

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Boy racer favourite grows up just a bit

By John Griffiths

It was like being reunited with an old friend – Subaru's sporting flagship and favourite of a generation of rally drivers is back.

But the latest WRX STi is a different car to its predecessors: still the same extraordinary performance and handling but with a bigger cabin equipped to premium car standards.

At a fiver under £29,000, it's a combination which make it a serious competitor in the market place as well as on the rally stages.

It tackles the 0 to 62mph sprint in 5.2 seconds and is capable of almost 160mph: but with its rally-honed four wheel drive system adding traction and stability through the corners it's real world performance where the car shines.

And, as proof of the pudding, a standard production version of the car smashed the lap record for four wheelers on the twisty Isle of Man TT circuit. In the hands of British rally ace Mark Higgins, it completed the 37.75 miles in 19 minutes 15.9 seconds, at an average speed of 117.51mph – breaking the record held by its predecessor, the last generation WRX, by more than 40 seconds.

The power comes from a turbocharged 2.5 litre version of Subaru's signature 'boxer', the distinctive sounding four cylinder horizontally opposed engine which produces 300PS and 407Nm of torque.

That's the same as the previous generation, although competition examples were often 'chipped' to raise the output even more. But the new engine and turbo have also been reworked to produce much quicker 'in gear' acceleration (for overtakes and between corners), typically in the 2,000 to 4,000rpm bracket.

There's also the iSI-Drive system, which sets the car's responses to one of three modes, from best fuel efficiency to 'Sport Sharp' where the engine's full potential is unleashed.

The WRX disappeared from the British scene a few years ago, largely because of exchange rates between the pound and the Japanese Yen during the recession.

Now it's back, still with the trademark bonnet air scoop and big rear wing, but in many ways significantly different.

The starting point is all-new architecture built using a much higher percentage of high tensile steel, with reinforcements at strategic points, so that it's an amazing 140 per cent stiffer than its predecessor. That benefits suspension and steering response, while also making the car stronger in the event of an accident.

There's a new hydraulic steering system, too, with more driver 'feel' and it's high geared for a sharp and very precise turn-in to corners. With the new short-throw, six speed gearbox it does feel like being in the driving seat of a racing car if it weren't for the fact that you're in superb sports seats, finished in alcantara with leather side bolsters, with dual zone climate control and an upmarket stereo system.

The Subaru's all surface cornering ability is due in no small part to its sophisticated all wheel drive system, which has a highly technical centre differential. The default position is a straight 50/50 power distribution between front and rear wheels, but if either start to slip a higher percentage torque is transferred to those with more grip. There's also a torque vectoring system, reducing power to outside wheels under hard cornering to reduce the risk of over or under steer.

This system also has a three mode setting, for slippery conditions through to allowing more power to the rear wheels, for greater agility. Multi-mode vehicle dynamic control and traction systems are standard equipment.

Over poorer surfaces, you are still aware that the WRX is a high performance car, but it's new suspension system has been tuned and damped to provide a more supple, civilised ride without sacrificing dynamic ability. The car also gets more stopping power with larger, 17-inch ventilated disc brakes all round, with a braking system from Brembo.

In redesigning the WRX, Subaru not only created more cabin space front and rear but also moved the A-pillars and lowered the dash, to give the driver a wider field of vision.

The cabin is now a little wider, with room for five adults, a 460-litre boot and lots of storage spaces. The driver gets clear instruments and with a full colour information screen between the speedo and rev counter. Positioned centre top on the dashboard is another colour display screen, unique to the WRX. For the sporting driver or competitor, you can monitor such things as boost pressure or the AWD system, as well as more mundane things such as the time.

It's a sporting saloon in every sense of the word, better equipped and more comfortable while undercutting rivals.

As with any such car, it isn't bargain basement when it comes to running costs. The official fuel average is 27.2mpg with a CO2 rating of 242g/km.

It is grown and matured, no longer the boy racer's car (an insurance rating of 40E would see to that) it's now more of a value for money executive express for the real enthusiast. But don't be surprised if quite a few turn up in rallies and competitions, too.



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Update is practical, usable and a bargain

By Matt Joy

The UK's best selling plug-in hybrid last year was the Mitsubishi Outlander, but now there's an improved version.

It's a good time for all types of electric cars as diesel is going through some dark days, plus the crucial infrastructure is getting better all the time. No wonder then that the Mitsubishi Outlander is so popular, being one of the more affordable PHEVs (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) as well as one of the most practical.

Now there's a substantially revised version ready for market with changes to the power train operation and the suspension as well as interior and exterior design. Equipment levels have been given a boost too and crucially the Outlander PHEV remains eligible for the Government's £5,000 grant.

The previous Outlander had all the typical SUV design cues you'd expect, but there was something about its proportions that made it look unusually tall for its length. Clearly that was something taken on by Mitsubishi HQ because the new Outlander is longer than before thanks to redesigned front and rear bumpers. The new design is sharper too, giving the Outlander a more distinctive face and boosting the feeling of quality with revised lights and alloy wheel designs too.

The Outlander is also doing great things for Mitsubishi's image in the UK as it currently dominates the PHEV segment and is helping to bring new buyers into the brand.

The Outlander sits comfortably in the mid-sized SUV segment and is well equipped to offer useful space for passengers and luggage. The high driving position is appealing with a low-set dashboard offering a good view out, with more than sufficient head and legroom. It's also spacious in the back, if not class-leading, while boot space is 463 litres – a little less than some rivals, but this is the flip side of carrying the extra electrical hardware.

Modes

The underlying hardware of the Outlander PHEV are as before, with electric motors front and rear combining with a 2.0-litre petrol engine to give a variety of hybrid modes. You can use the petrol engine as a range extender or as direct drive to the wheels, and run the batteries to give a power boost or save their output for pure electric mode. One change is the sharpening of the system response at low speeds, cutting the 0-25mph time by 50 per cent.

Mitsubishi has also worked at improving the overall driving experience.

Retuned suspension with stiffer underpinnings are a help, creating a more composed ride, while the handling is safe and secure for a car of this size and shape. But the Outlander PHEV's biggest appeal is the flexibility of its power train, offering sufficiently brisk performance when required alongside super-frugal economy in the right conditions. It's hard not to feel like you're beating the system when you're behind the wheel.

All things considered, it's hard not to see the Outlander PHEV as something of a bargain. It's priced the same as the equivalent diesel version with the government grant included which means you can sneak into the GX3h model for a measly £29,249 and get 18-inch alloys, keyless entry and start, Bluetooth and a decent audio system, with a few extra toys thrown in for this latest model. Go the whole hog for £35,999 and there's the satnav with reversing camera, powered tailgate, radar cruise control and even a heated steering wheel.

If there's a car for the moment then the Outlander PHEV is pretty much it. It's practical, comfortable and usable, making it perfect for family car duties, yet the higher-specification versions feel reasonably luxurious too. But it's the potential for zero emissions running and spectacular fuel consumption over short journeys that makes it such an appealing prospect.

This car summed up in a single word: Clever

If this car was a: new invention it would be rightly lauded as a bargain.

TESTED

Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV GX4hs, £35,999 (after £5,000 UK Government grant)

Engine: 2.0-litre petrol unit plus twin electric motors producing 200bhp and 284lb/ft of torque

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Baleno is hoping to make mark in sector

By Ed Wiseman

Suzuki's renaissance in the UK is gathering pace thanks to a new Vitara and some clever technology. We try an early version of the brand-new Baleno for size.

The Baleno is a new car. There was briefly another Suzuki called Baleno in the Nineties but it was a cheap saloon that didn't sell or drive particularly well. Suzuki hopes that this latest car to bear the Baleno name will perform considerably better in both respects.

Suzuki wants to expand its efforts in the UK market. Historically they've been very good at making characterful little 4x4s like the Jimny (the current generation having been produced since 1998) and perky warm hatchbacks like the Swift Sport. The Swift accounts for a huge amount of its UK sales, but is definitely a compact car. The Baleno is bigger than the Swift, plonking the lesser-known model in a very competitive market sector.

Visually, the Baleno is very ordinary-looking hatchback, with few distinctive features on the outside. You can order it with a snazzy paint job which changes colour depending on ambient lighting conditions but, assuming you're one of the 99 per cent of people who don't tick that box, it's actually very boring to look at. What's more, it probably won't age well – it already looks a bit dated, and it isn't even for sale yet.

The same is true of the interior. There's a large touch-screen display with satnav, DAB and reversing camera capabilities, but apart from that the inside of the Baleno looks like a car from several years ago. The plastics are slightly harsh and the layout has an old-fashioned Japanese character to it – not ugly, but not interesting either.

Buying a Suzuki is a statement. It means that you cherish reliability and practicality over a 'desirable' badge. Suzuki has a cult following, primarily around the Swift Sport and the funky little off-roader, the Jimny. But apart from that, the manufacturer receives little recognition in the UK.

Legroom for passengers is good in both the front and the rear. There's around 7cm more legroom in total than the Swift, and it's possible to seat five adults in only slightly compromised comfort. With four grown men in it, the Baleno feels like a much larger car than it is.

Comfortable

In the front, a lack of storage space is evident. The glove-box is pint-sized and the oddment box in the centre console can barely accommodate a large mobile phone. Door bins are reasonable but won't hold large water bottles. The seats are comfortable for long periods of time and all the controls are in the right place.

In the rear, the slightly simplistic design continues. Bottom-spec cars will have wind-up windows in the rear, and when the windows are fully wound down there's an incredibly intrusive buffeting noise and reverberation. Split-folding rear seats make the potential load space enormous, and even with the seats in place the boot is still a class-leading 355 litres – larger than the Focus and i20.

We drove the pre-production model, which was already good, but we've been promised continuing development before it is unleashed on the UK's roads. Steering is quite responsive and the general handling characteristics feel like those of a more expensive car.

The 1.0-litre BoosterJet engine produces a remarkable amount of power at low revs (roughly 90 per cent of its torque at just 1,500rpm) and the result is a feisty feel. It won't win races or set the heart racing like a hot hatch, but Suzuki has managed to squeeze 110bhp out of a tiny displacement.

You can opt for a very ordinary five-speed manual, or an excellent six-speed automatic with flappy paddles. There's also a 1.2-litre mild hybrid, which uses a bit of electric power in conjunction with a conventional engine. While this does bring the CO2/km figure down below 100, it's not particularly engaging to drive. It's also too expensive, and even Suzuki expect it to account for just 10 per cent of sales. The 1.0 with the auto box is the clear winner here.

Exact pricing hasn't been released yet, but the ballpark figures are £12,000 for the entry-level model and £14,000 for the top-spec. These are liable to change but £12,000 makes it a reasonable choice for a bargain motor and £14,000 for the more upmarket one makes it cheaper than similarly-equipped competitors. Some of the basic touches, like an old-fashioned mechanical handbrake, are actually quite attractive to a lot of buyers.

The Baleno is such an ordinary car at first glance that it's hard to pick out a specific target beyond people who already know (and love) Suzuki cars. But this new 1.0 BoosterJet engine coupled to the six-speed automatic gearbox makes for a fun driving experience, and there's a lot of room in there for humans and their possessions. The Baleno will certainly attract Suzuki fans who have outgrown the Swift, and inevitably some newcomers to the brand will be drawn in by this practical, no-nonsense little run-around.



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RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 2004, 89,000 miles, blue, electric windows, central locking, 11 months MoT, alloys. £690. 07903 604704.

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BERYL ERMINE SKIDMORE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 11 Maidenhead Road Waltham, Kingswinford West Midlands DY6 0HG, who died on 12/07/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 11/03/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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SAMANTHA, 42yrs, seeks gent for festive season, doesn't want to be alone again. Age/looks/unimportant. GSOH essential. Box: 4140774. Text only.

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired miss loving female, with many interests including diving out, the arts, photography WLTm similar male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5349562

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 418167

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715

ANN, 38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTm similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 405297

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

FELICITY, 38yrs, attractive, petite but shapely lady seeks gent for indoor activities! Age/looks/martial status unimportant but must be discreet and not demanding. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 420235

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTm date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416827

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTm kind, sincere chap to share coffee and a chat. Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

ATTRACTION professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

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JENNIFER, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks/unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

LUCY, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420237

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTm male for mutual companionship Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTm very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTm male 45-65yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419577

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, claim pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, looking WLTm tactile male farmer for LTR. Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

ATTRACTION professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

ATTRACTION professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

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ATTRACTION professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun friendship and lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385

KIRSTEN, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirt, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks/unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845

HEATHER, well travelled soloivee brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend 4345 Box No: 419825

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809

HAPPY man 59 looking for a lady to share the good times. I enjoy cinema, eating out, pubs and holidays in hot places. Text only to mailbox no: 461385

LONELY and broken male seeks female to show me what love is. Text only to mailbox no: 5345658

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420135

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind, heartfelt, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463

HANDSOME guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 39580

ATTRACTION male, 54, seeks attractive female for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407915

TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904

ATTRACTION male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713

TALL, dark, attractive guy 50, seeks attractive, tactile female for fun, excitement and lots of attention. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 314219

COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTm a lady for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart. Age 39/40. Text only to Mailbox No: 486916

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KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox no: 4464905

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you you would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands and times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 3005 Box No: 419825

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. Text only to Mailbox no: 415651

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809

HAPPY man 59 looking for a lady to share the good times. I enjoy cinema, eating out, pubs and holidays in hot places. Text only to mailbox no: 461385

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TALL, dark, attractive guy 50, seeks attractive, tactile female for fun, excitement and lots of attention. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 314219

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BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart. Age 39/40. Text only to Mailbox No: 486916

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Clegg revs up to meet supporters at open day

NEW signing Max Clegg will meet with Wolves speedway supporters on Sunday at an open day of club sponsors Parys International.

Clegg will be present from 10am until 3pm at the company's Landywood Green base in Cheslyn Hay, near Cannock, alongside club bosses Chris Van Straaten and Peter Adams.

They will be presented with their Elite League Track of the Year award and will be available to talk with supporters.

Young gun Clegg, who will return to the top flight with the Monmore Green club in 2016, is looking forward to meeting with fans.

He said: "I'm really looking forward to travelling down and hopefully seeing plenty of Wolves fans there. It's not long until the season starts now and I can't wait to be back in the Elite League riding for Wolves."

"It will be good to get the chance to see some of the fans before the season starts and I hope there will be a good turnout to support Parys."

Meanwhile, Wolves new-boy Sam Masters got his Australian Championship bid off to a strong start with a second place finish in the opening round in Kurri Kurri.

The 24-year-old recovered from a slow start to reel off three straight wins and book his place directly in the A Final.

After hitting the front with a daring move he looked set to climb to the top of the rostrum only to be re-passed by Rohan Tungate.

Despite settling for second, it leaves Masters well-placed ahead of yesterday's (Wednesday) second round at Undera.

Yozza arrows in on BDO success



Jamie Hughes of Tipton is looking to progress

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes is in the second round of the BDO World Championship for successive tournaments after a whitewash win at Lakeside on Monday night, writes Craig Birch.

The Black Country thrower removed Scotland's Ross Montgomery 3-0 in straight sets, with the BT Sport cameras rolling live.

It was a real slow burner, though, and missed doubles were commonplace but it was Hughes who landed when it mattered

most. The 29-year-old took the sets 3-2 in the first and third affairs, with a 3-0 whitewash in the second before a furious Montgomery gave up and folded.

'Yozza' kept his cool to prevail, with Montgomery putting his coat on and leaving Frimley Green in a huff soon after the match.

Hughes, who landed two 180s en route, said: "We both should have done a lot better. Maybe we showed a bit too much respect for each other, we started badly and

neither of us could snap out of it. Darts is an easy game when you're playing well, but I found it very difficult up there. It was frustrating."

There appeared to be tension between the two when they returned after the break, due to Hughes' tapping Montgomery on the back of the head in friendly fashion as they left the stage.

But Hughes insisted: "I get on well with Ross, he's a great guy. There's no problem between us."

I can take the heat swears boss Jackett

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett says he's fully well aware of the criticism he gets from fans – but is thick-skinned enough to deal with it.

Jackett has come in for strong verbal attacks this season, especially on social media.

And while admitting he takes his job home with him and that his family probably suffer as a result, he said he never forgets the privileged position he's in.

"You do definitely take it home with you," he said. "I enjoy my job, I enjoy being in management. I know that if you want to be in it you can't win all the time, but you don't lose all the time either."

"Do my family suffer? Probably. But it's a privilege to be in it, particularly at a club like Wolves. Wolves is a massive club and a great club and it's a privilege to be in this position, you should never forget that. I value it and enjoy it."

The Wolves boss added of any abuse he gets: "You definitely know what's going on, you're aware of it."

"You'll stop at a petrol station and somebody will tell you, so you do know."

"I accept that the better you do or higher up you go, the more focus there is."

"My dad was a professional footballer. When I was 16 and came into it he said it was a tough life but a great life, and he said you need to be very thick-skinned."

"He played in the 1950s. And he went on the train with the fans, on the way back (after a game)."

Meanwhile Jackett, who has overseen three defeats in a row for his side – the latest a 1-0 victory over Brighton on New Year's Day – insists there hasn't been a single enquiry made for Benik Afobe, despite rumours of Championship rivals Derby County mounting a bid.

Jackett said not a single phonecall had been made.

"We've had no calls about Benik," he said. "We haven't had a call from Derby, we haven't had an inquiry, we haven't had a bid."

"If it is coming, nothing's happened yet. We want to try to improve (the team) and move on if we can."

Jordan Graham is rated 50/50 for Saturday's FA Cup trip to West Ham with an ankle injury.

Tennis players get in the mix



Participants during the mix-in sessions at Wollaston Tennis Club

WOLLASTON Tennis Club members were out in force over the Christmas and new year period.

The club again ran its traditional Boxing Day and New Year's Day mix-in sessions and these once again proved very successful with more than 40 members taking part across the age ranges, many attending on both occasions.

The sessions ended a busy 2015 programme for the club and wel-

comed in 2016. Mix-ins allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy doubles sets with a variety of partners and opposition.

Players can just turn up and make themselves known and mix in. They are a great opportunity for players to get to know other club members and to develop their games. Each mix-in session was followed by a drink and mince pies in the clubhouse. The Prestwood

Drive Club is keen to build on its achievements from 2015.

Chairman John Cutler said: "To see so many members playing on New Year's Day really shows the enthusiasm within the club, and we look forward to another busy year of tennis in 2016."

For membership details or to look around the club, email WLTC@outlook.com or visit www.wollastontennis.co.uk

No surprise as Reuben lets fists do the talking

A KICKBOXING world champion aims to make his fists do the talking after setting his sights on the boxing world.

Halesowen's Reuben Charlesworth has already picked up 12 world titles as a kickboxer.

So, the 18-year-old's early success in the boxing world should come as little surprise.

Charlesworth has won all three of his bouts so far and his coach and father Jason reckons he has the potential to go far.

"Reuben was looking to try something different so boxing was an obvious step for him," Jason said.

"Even so, it has been a little surprising how quickly he's taken to it. I've had a couple of former professionals come down to the gym and watch him and they've been really impressed."

"He is determined to do well. What can I say, the kid just likes to fight."

Charlesworth has won all three of his bouts at BBU Boxing events – a relatively new organisation looking to fill the gap between the professional and amateur ranks.

He is one of several fighters training at the Pride Boxing Centre, which is part of the Halesowen Martial Arts Centre, run by Jason Charlesworth, who has been training fighters since 1993.

Another member of the gym, Keiran Biggs, claimed a debut victory in the latest show.

"Keiran is a nervous young man and it took him a lot of courage to step into the ring," said Charlesworth, himself a successful martial arts fighter.

"But he won all three rounds and showed a lot of character."

No grounds for complaint after defeat

AFC Ludlow 5 Team Dudley 1

TEAM Dudley's trip to AFC Ludlow was saved from the weather by the hosts' 3G pitch, but it was Ludlow who secured an emphatic victory in West Midlands Division One – extending their lead at the top of the table in the process.

Dudley went down 5-1, with their only bright spot coming at 3-0 down when Myles Nettleford was brought down and Nathan Jones converted the resultant penalty.

Kieron Dovey opened the scoring before Dale Hodge doubled the advantage, albeit with a hint of offside.

Team Dudley can have no complaints overall though and Dovey added his second after the interval, before Jones pulled one back.

But Ludlow added two more to go nap through substitute Robert Vass and Keanu Cooper.

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Sport

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darts success
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Graves puts Nail in Tivi coffin late on

Belper Town 3 Tivdale 0
TIVIDALE remain 11 points adrift at the bottom after a 3-0 defeat at Belper Town.

Aaron Cole's deflected strike gave Belper the lead on the stroke of half-time, which was added to by Evan Garnett and Eric Graves after the break.

The game went ahead after an early pitch inspection deemed the Marston's Stadium fit to host this Evo-Stik Division One South fixture.

Due to a spate of players injured and unavailable, Tivdale Manager Phil Male included youngsters Shaquille Leachman-Whittingham, Desean Martin and Shane Grainger to the starting line up and alongside Demetri Brown made it possibly the youngest midfield Tivdale have ever fielded. With only the manager and Jacob Barnes available as defenders he also had to change to a back three with Craig Stevens playing alongside them.

The Nailers first chance fell to Garnett, Williams whipped the ball in and Thomas Turner in the Tivdale goal dropped it as Ben Watkis challenged him, Garnett hooked the loose ball towards goal but Turner got back up and caught the ball.

But the hosts did score first on the stroke of half-time, Rob Stevenson set the ball back to the full-back who took a touch a drilled the ball hard and low via a deflection past Tom Turner and into the bottom corner from 25-yards out.

Evan Garnett doubled the lead just before the hour mark with the pick of the afternoon's goals, Stevenson played the ball into him on the edge of the box, he flicked the ball up and emphatically volleyed home left-footed.

Belper captain Eric Graves completed the scoring with a powerful header from a Sam Wood corner in the 83rd minute.

Yeltz show hosts no Mersey with latest away win

Marine 0 Halesowen Town 3
HALESOWEN grabbed their fourth away win of the season with an impressive victory on Merseyside.

The game only went ahead after an early morning pitch inspection following heavy rain but it seemed to hold up well.

Kaiman Anderson gave the Yeltz the lead in the 13th minute when he headed home from a Danny Bragoli cross.

Marine's best chance came in the first half when Lloyd Ellams turned and saw his shot tipped wide by Halesowen keeper Shaun Rowley.

Ashley Parsons-Smith grabbed the second and deciding goal for the visitors on 56 minutes when he ran towards goal before curling a beautiful left footed shot into the top corner.

And Malcolm Melvin made sure it was a great start to the new year for Halesowen in the 83rd minute when he tapped home at the far post after full-back Luke Connolly had pulled it back.

Yeltz: Rowley, Connolly, Griffiths, Denny, Hull, Parsons-Smith, Charlton, Bragoli, Anderson, Melvin, Michel-Gueyes. Subs: Morrison, Turner, Westwood, Watson.

Attendance: 409.

Glassboys hopes ram-raided by visitors

Stourbridge 2 Ramsbottom United 3

STOURBRIDGE missed the opportunity to push on towards the Evo-Stik Northern Premier play-off picture as they slipped to defeat against bottom-of-the-table Ramsbottom United.

The Glassboys surprise defeat was the visitors' first away victory of the season.

The hosts suffered a largely-frustrating first period despite a quick start to proceedings.

Karl Hawley fired straight at keeper Grant Shenton in the sixth minute before Ben Billingham rattled the woodwork with an inswinging free-kick from the right flank on 15.

Stourbridge FC

A breakaway kick from Shenton on the half-hour-mark found Aaron Smith behind the Stourbridge defence and although his shot was saved by Charlie Price, Jordan Bove followed up to score, giving the Greater Manchester outfit the lead.

Stour toiled for large parts of the second half as they tried to get back in the game but failed to create clear-cut chances and, when they did put the ball in the box, Shenton and his defence dealt with it.

But the Glassboys were back in the game

through a strong strike from Leon Broadhurst on 75 minutes and at this stage Gary Hackett's men were looking to win the game.

Ramsbottom substitute Danny Wilkins had other ideas though and, just five minutes after coming on, headed home at the far post from a corner before firing low past Price seven minutes later, leaving Stourbridge a mountain to climb.

Justin Richards did give Stour hope a minute later with a drive into the net, but it proved too close to the end for them to snatch an equaliser.

Stourbridge: Price, Green, Scarr, Geddes (Wright 72), Smikle, Pierpoint (c), Dodd (Hales 72) Broadhurst, Hawley, Richards, Billingham (Laith 62). Subs not used: Knight, Clarke. Attendance: 652.

SANDAL GIVEN BOOT BY STOUR

Stourbridge 33 Sandal 15

STOURBRIDGE gave Sandal the boot in their opening clash of the new year.

The Battle of Wakefield was fought at Sandal during the Wars of the Roses, and Stourbridge came out fighting here during their own battle against their Yorkshire rivals.

A heavy surface, resolute Sandal back line and a rash of early penalties meant the hosts spent much of the opening exchanges on the defensive, the occasional foray into the visitors 22 producing a couple of opportunities that went begging.

But scrum half Toby Handley reacted first to secure possession and drive over from short range when the ball went loose at a Sandal scrum.

Stour's attacking game suddenly clicked to produce a breathtaking purple patch in which their pace, running lines and offloading defied the conditions and overwhelmed the visitors with four tries in barely over 10 minutes, two of them straight from restarts.

Neat passing out of the tackle by centre James Otutaha and outside half Rod Petty put centre Joe Heatley clear near halfway, he drew the last defender and fed a scoring pass to no.8 Connor Nicholls on his inside shoulder.

Siege

Winger Ash Elvers was worked clear from the restart, his inside pass to Heatley blocked by a deliberate knock-on that earned Sandal fullback Simon Frewin a yellow card.

A speculative crossfield kick proved fruitless when the chaser drifted offside, Sandal outside half Greg Wood briefly lifting the siege with a well-struck penalty kick.

But Stour found touch in the Sandal 22 from a penalty away, upped the tempo and lock forward Chris Roddy's pass worked flanker Joe Carpenter over the try line.

The restart saw no respite, Stour probing the visitors' defences by constantly switching the point of attack. Sandal's defensive line buckled and Heatley was worked through, finding Elvers whose footwork left the defenders for dead to give Stourbridge a 26-3 half-time lead. The early second half proved an anti-climax, both sides gifting



Toby Handley touches down for a short range try – the first of five for Stourbridge

turnovers with handling errors, but the Stour pack got to work in the scrum to force a penalty.

Petty spotted Elvers unmarked out wide and landed a perfectly weighted punt for him to score his second try.

A yellow card for prop Stef Thorp took the momentum out of Stour's game, Carpenter sacrificed to accommodate replacement prop Adam Sturdy.

Sandal grasped their opportunity and found touch in the Stour 22 and ground over a maul for a try for replacement Luke Norbury. With con-

ditions deteriorating, Stour emptied the replacements bench and opted to play a containment game, shutting the visitors out until a turnover led to a breakaway try for Frewin near the end, completing the scoring at 33-15.

Stour next travel to the Wirral to take on a Caldys side that took the scalp of leaders Macclesfield last week. Their next home fixture is on January 16 when they host Harrogate at 3pm.

The Lions beat Nottingham Casuals 38-5 in the National Intermediate Cup.

Runners not handicapped by 2016 start

THERE was the opportunity to get the new year off to a good start for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

The club organised its annual New Year's Day handicap race, giving runners the chance to clear their heads, last Friday.

The "race" is always a relatively low key event but managed to attract more than 30 runners who were sent off at intervals over a 4.1 mile course with their starting positions based on their 10k times.

With the slowest going off first and the fastest starting last, and everyone else at intervals in between, there was always someone to chase or someone chasing you.

And with a prizes for the nearest their handicap mark as well as fastest finisher for both male and female there was a chance that anyone could claim a prize with a bit of intelligent pacing.

Prizes

With runners from other clubs also joining the blue hoops it was a notable day for Tipton Harriers who claimed the majority of the prizes with Tom Holden claiming the fastest male prize from the Dudley Kingswinford duo of Ben Foster and Matt Biggs with Tipton's Lawrence Heathcock finishing with the fourth fastest time of the day but bagging the "closest the handicap prize".

There was double delight for Tipton as Lynne Hill claimed the fastest female prize from Penny Barber, also of Tipton, and DK's Carol Fisher finishing third. Alison Whitehouse claimed the female prize for being closest to her handicap mark.

Elsewhere Andy Sprague tried something a little more strenuous travelling to Church Stretton for Mercia Fell Runners-organised Morning After Fell Race, an 8km race with 275 metres of climbing, finishing in 60th place in a time of 41.43.

Foundry too hot in darts knockout

THE FOUNDRY proved too hot for their rivals as they claimed the the Sedgley & Gornal Darts League Team Knockout.

The Dudley-based side beat Gornal Labour Club 5-3 in the first semi-final.

Sedgley Ex-Servicemen's Club then booked their place in the final with a hard-fought 5-4 win against Netherton Cricket Club.

The Foundry then clinched the trophy with a 5-3 success in the shoot-out for silverware.

★★★

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DW Windows has a range of doors on show in their new showroom at Meadow Lane, why not come along and see how these doors can enhance the look of your home. Apeer Composite Doors come in three different styles, 'Traditional', 'Contemporary' and the 'Modo Collection' which feature modern doors with stainless steel trims and a range of glass designs and stainless steel furniture.



Apeer Door



Apeer Door



Aluminium bi-fold doors



Apeer Door

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